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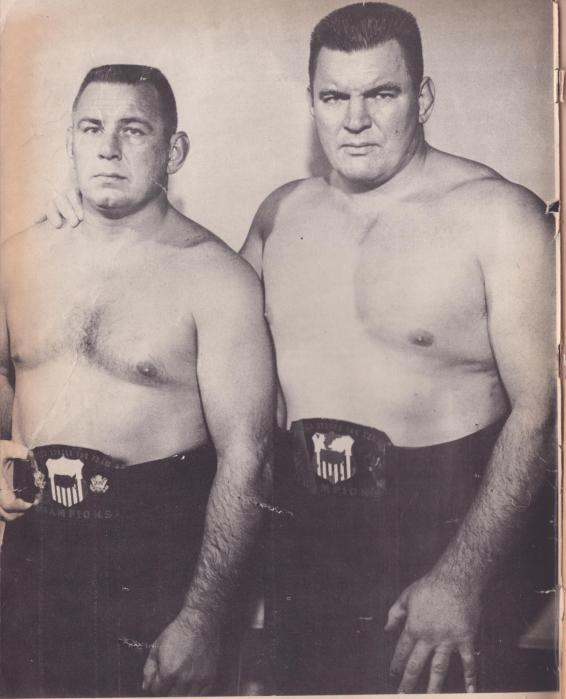
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> VERNE GAGNE

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(Danny & Dr. Bill)

Autograph

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VRESTLING

CONTENTS

OUTCASTS' REVENGE By Jerry Prater	10
I PROPOSE A WORLD SERIES OF WRESTLING By Verne Gagne	16
MADE IN JAPAN	20
I GOT SCALPED! By Tony Nero	22
LOTHARIO: ONE DAY KINISKI WILL HAVE TO WRESTLE ME By Jerry Prater	26
MY TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO ITALY By Bruno Sammartino	32
COLOR GALLERY	
MAGNIFICENT MAURICE	35
VITTORIO APOLLO	36
THE DESTROYER	37
	38
LOU THESZ	
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS	
	40
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN	40 46
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S, MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER	40 46 50
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan	40 46 50 52
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER	40 46 50 52 58
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER DEPARTMENTS PICTURE OF THE MONTH	40 46 50 52 58
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER DEPARTMENTS	40 46 50 52 58 6 8
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER DEPARTMENTS PICTURE OF THE MONTH LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FAN-LAND	40 46 50 52 58 6 8 9
THE CASE OF THE MASKED MEDICS DE NUCCI-STEVENS' FEUD CONTINUES EVERYBODY'S MAD AT THE MAD RUSSIAN By Dean Silverstone NIGHT RIPPER LEONE WAS RUN OUT OF TOWN By J. Ralph Hogan THE CRUSHER DEPARTMENTS PICTURE OF THE MONTH LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FAN-LAND By Helen Hanna	40 46 50 52 58 6 8 9 57 60



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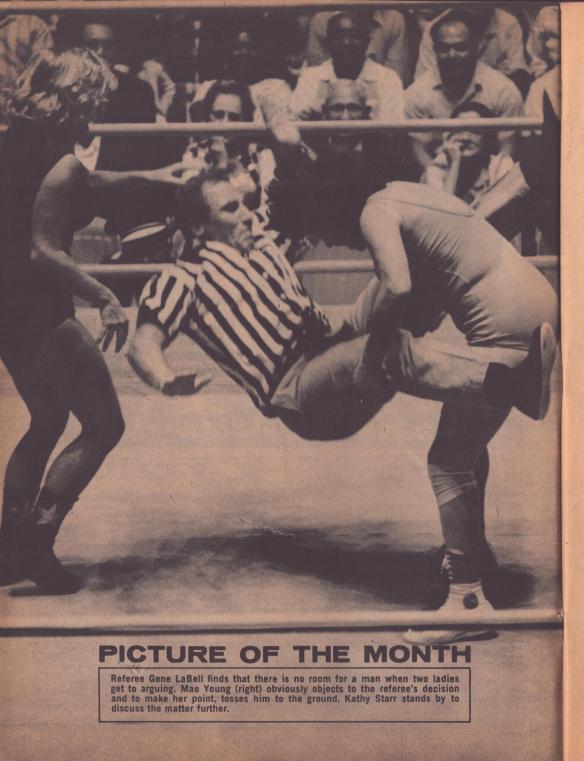
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SAMMARTINO VS. PUGLIESE?

I would like to know if there is going to be a match between Sammartino and his cousin Pugliese. If there will be such a match could you possibly tell me where and when this match will be held.

Mike Puskar Norristown, Pa.

Ed.: Such a match is unlikely . . . who ever heard of matching cousin against cousin?

FLORIDA AFICIONADO

I think your magazine is the best wrestling magazine published today. I live in Florida, and we have some good wrestlers down here. I would like to ask you if you would of wrestlers claiming they are the print some stories on Tarzan Tyler Eddie Graham.

George Lucs Tallahassee, Fla. Ed.: All the wrestlers you have mentioned have appeared in back issues of W. W.

PLAUDIT FOR PATTERSON

I enjoyed the article on Ray Stevens in the August 1966 edition of Wrestling World magazine. I would also enjoy reading an article on Ray Stevens' partner, Pat Patterson.

A Pat Patterson Fan Fresno, California Ed.: W. W. will try to include a Patterson feature in the next issues.

"FOUR YEARS BEHIND THE

I enjoy your magazine very much, and, particularly, Aug. '66, Behind a Mask" story was great, and the cover picture of the Destroyer was also superb. I would also like to congratulate you for the great story and pictures of "The Night the Indian Almost up the great work.

> Andrew M. Finch Atlanta, Ga.

Ed.: Glad you enjoyed the Destroyer piece . . . he's currently Gene Kiniski's No. 1 menace.

BOGNI BOOSTER

My 14-year-old daughter has been an ardent wrestling fan of Aldo Bogni ever since he wrestled in the Fargo-Moorhead, Minneapolis area. She is interested in writing to him and starting a small fan club. If possible, please send me his address.

Russell Maring
Georgestown, Minnesota
Ed.: W. W. is not at liberty to publish home addresses of the wrestlers . . . try reaching him through a promoter.

WHO IS THE CHAMP . . . AGAIN

I have read, month after month. champ. Sure, I have my ideas on I have found a solution to truly pick the real wrestling champion. I think the fans, who have seen many wrestlers in action, should select who they think is "the champ.'

Don Pesek Liberal, Kansas Ed.: The editors feel that the championship matter should be decided in the ring . . . not by a popularity contest.

NORFOLK NEWS

I am a writing to compliment you on your fine magazine and to inform you on some of the recent wrestling action here in Norfolk. First of all I feel that Wrestling World is the finest magazine in its MASK"-A SMASHING SUCCESS field, and it could be improved only with a listing of matches section. In recent matches here, Prinissue. The "Destroyer Four Years cess Ubangi beat Sweet Georgia Brown, Brute Bernard and Skull Murphy beat The Scott Brothers, Rip Hawk and Swede Hanson split a pair of decisions with Aldo Bogni and Bronco Lubich, Big Tex Mc-Kenzie and Nelson Royal won Scalped the Bruiser." Please, keep over Bogni and Lubich, and Mc-Kenzie and Royal also clobbered Hawk and Hanson.

Paul Dennis Virginia Beach, Va. Ed.: We would appreciate such contributions from all fans.

WANTS GORY DETAILS

I have purchased your fine Wrestling magazine for a long time, but, it won't be complete until vou've given us some detailed account of Wrestling matches. We are not interested in the private life of wrestlers. We'd rather hear how some of the important matches take place.

Kurt Batzdorfer Warren, Ohio

Ed.: W. W. has included various photo stories that depicted all the mat-side action you desire.

TONY'S TOPS!

I have read many articles on new grapplers in Wrestling World, but I have not seen an article on Antonio Pugliese. He is attaining after each encounter a higher rating.

Eugene Merrit Rye, New York

Ed.: Pugliese was featured in the Oct. issue of W. W.

TV BLACKOUT

I would like to know why wrestling was taken off T.V. The move was unannounced, and it hampers my purusit of wrestling. Will you Sputnik Monroe, Bob Orton, and who I think is the champion, but try to put it on again? We do miss

> Mary Donek College Point, N.Y. Ed.: We don't like the blackout either . . . difficulties with the network probably precipitated the move.

WHERE'S BOB?

I have been reading Wrestling World for some time now, and have yet to see an article on Big Bob Orton. Do you think you can print an article on him soon?

Vicki MacNeil Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Ed.: Orton appeared in the Dec. '64 issue.

CHEERS FOR THE MIDGETS

I would very much like to comment on your feature the "Mighty Midgets", in your June 1966 Wrestling World magazine. "The "little men" are wonderful to watch, and we have seen them perform in Ottumiva, Iowa. It was a pleasure to see them featured in your magazine, and please include them again, this time with a story. Betty Baird

St. Collins, Colo. Ed.: W. W. likes to include stories on male, female, midget, and giant-sized wrestlers. You name it, we've got it!

FAR-LARD

Dear Fans:

This month there were many, many wrestling fan writing to ask where they could buy photos of the wrestlers. There are many clubs specializing in this type of service, among them being WORLD WIDE WRESTLING, P. O. Box C, Burleson, Texas, 76028.

Received a letter from 1050 James Koenigsdorf. Homes Savings Building, 1006 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Missouri, 64106. James writes that he is an avid Kansas City wrestling fan and would like to trade pictures, clippings, results, etc., with other fans all over the country. He also mentions that his favorite wrestlers are CRUSHER LISOWSKI and DICK THE BRUISER.

My thanks to Opal Mae Ronspiel, president of the DANNY HODGE Fan Club for sending me LENTINE Fan Club in 1960. She an honorary membership card, has since lost track of the club newsletter, and photos club and would like some inof Danny. From the material formation regarding this have organized this club very Johnny's fan club please well. Dues are \$1 per year write Rita as she is anxious and the address is 907 South to join again. 10th St., P. O. Box, Kingfisher. Okla., 73750.

My thanks also to Ruth Gordon of 232 Westmont Ave., Norfolk, Va., 23503, for the honorary membership cards for her VON STROHEIM BROTHERS Fan Club and the TOLOS BROTH-ERS Fan Club.

We received a permission slip from Carl Gow authorizing him to be president of the International FRED CURRY Fan Club. By the way, there will be no other chapters of this club. To join, you can write Carl at P. O. Box 3758, Pontiac. Mich., 48058.

Charles Lee of 1691 Kamamalu Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, would like to know where he can join a fan club for COWBOY BILL WATTS. Would formed International

the president of this club please contact Charles?

Bruce Bukstein, President of WRESTLING ALL STARS, 1441 Hillsboro South, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, writes that his club is getting larger and that he has gotten a lot of new members lately. We wish you continued success, Bruce.

Jeff Walton, president of the Worldwide FRED BLASSIE Fan Club, 1358 S. Sierra Bonita Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., 90019, writes to inform us that the club is still very active and is now in its fifth year. The price of each Janice. newsletter is 25¢.

Miss Rita M. Hansen of 19 Central St., So. Braintree, Mass. thinks JOHNNY VALEN-TINE is the greatest wrestler the International JOHNNY VAsent to us, Opal Mae seems to club. Would the president of

> Barbara Owens of 509 E. Broughton St., Savannah, Georgia, 31401, writes that she is the vice-president of the newly formed TORRES BROTHERS Fan Club. vicepresident of the SPUTNIK MON-ROE Fan Club., and president of the JOE SCARPA Fan Club. Prospective members can write Barbara at the above address for more information.

Ann Zagerman, president of the International MARK LEWIN Fan Club. sent me an honorary membership card. Ann's address is 13127 Pembroke, Detroit. Mich., 48235. Thank vou.

John Tudor writes that he is the president of the newly

Club for SAILOR ART THOMAS and DON LEO JONATHAN. Dues are 50¢ a year, and John informs us that new chapters can be started. You can write many wrestling fans writing to John at 64-30 231st St., Bayside, N. Y., 11364.

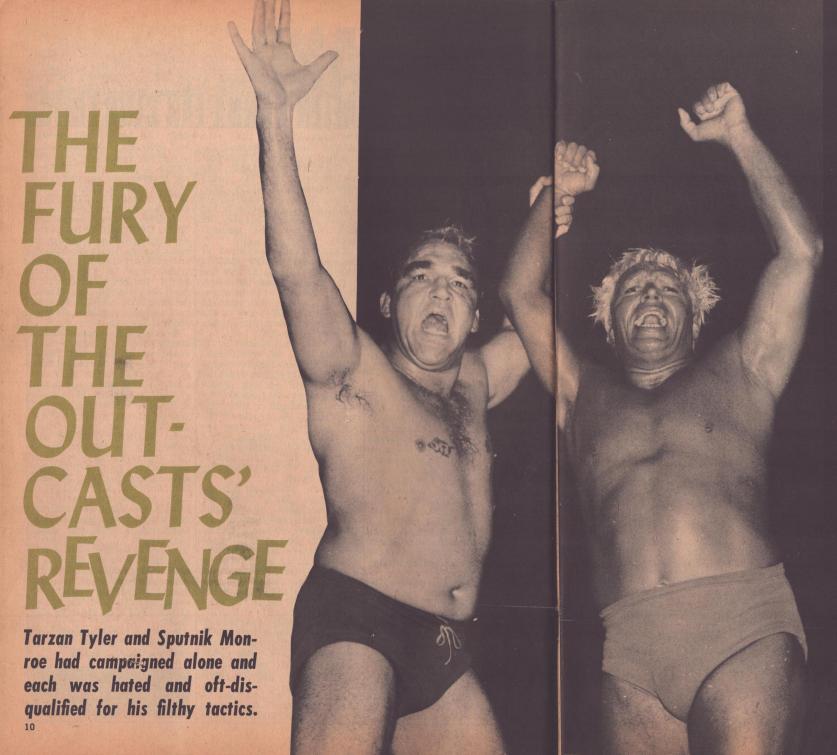
Janice Holley, secretary of the JERRY LONDON Fan Club. writes that after a stroke of bad luck to their president and vice president, they are trying to get the club started again. The club's address is Jean Blair, 4907 Kipp Place, Orlando, Fla., 32808. We wish you success this time.

We received a copy of BRUNO SAMMARTINO's Record Book compiled by Georgiann Mastis. This is a very complete record book and has involved in the world and had joined a lot of time and work. Georgiann writes that she ran out of copies immediately, the demand was so great, so she decided to have more copies made. The book includes all of Bruno's results from March 2. 1960. to May 21. 1966, and is only 50¢! To obtain a copy, write Georgiann at 32-18 34th St., Astoria, N. Y. 11106.

We have received notice of a new club called WRESTLER OF THE MONTH CLUB of which Ron Kamrowski of 16 New St.. Florida, N. Y., is president. Dues are 25¢ a month for which you receive a bulletin and photo. Also, the club is putting out a booklet containing twenty different wrestler's autographs for 25¢. The title of the club's bulletin is Mat Land.

That's all for now, so until I hear from all of you next month . . . Helen

Address all correspondence to: Helen Hanna Fan Club Editor Wrestling World 30-30 Northern Blyd., L.I.C., N.Y. 11101



Now that they're a team, there's no way — legal or otherwise — to contain them. Their rampage is terrorizing wrestling. By Jerry Prater

Wrestling fans across the nation were shocked recently to hear of the formation of a new tag team. When the news hit the sports pages some weeks ago, people found it hard to believe, but there it was in black and white-with pictures to prove it: Tarzan Tyler and Sputnik Monroe, two of wrestling's most detested competitors, had joined forces and were flattening all who stood against them.

The whole thing got started in Miami, Florida, one night. Both Tyler and Monroe had been disqualified in singles bouts at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Following the matches, Tarzan and Sputnik ran into each other at one of the gaudy night spots on the beach. Each was alone and eager to forget the humiliation he had experienced earlier that same evening. The considerable crowd that flocks to the night spots following the matches had, it seems,



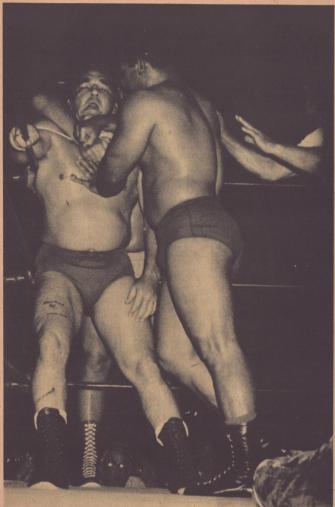
performed as the hand of fate that night. As Mr. Monroe and Mr. Tyler came in for the one beer each permitted himself following a hard-fought match, there were only two vacant stools—side by side.

"What say, Tyler?" Monroe offered. "I see you're out trying to forget the raw deal you got tonight."

"Them referees cheat guys like you and me every time," Tyler agreed. "It makes me so damn mad just because I'm rougher than these sissies the crowd likes, I get done out a match I should of won!"

"You know it, Ape Man," Monroe threw in; "these pencil-necked geeks have the cards stacked against

the rugged individuals like us."
"You called me 'Ape Man'," Tyler interrupted. "Only my friends call me that. I think maybe you're my friend, though," he continued, "because you used an expression that's a favorite of a very dear friend of mine. You said, 'pencil-necked geeks' when you



Monroe is in trouble, but not for long. Big foot, lower right, signals advance of Tyler.

were talking about the people who still able to compete. I sure wish I as watch Captain Kangaroo." very dear friend, Freddie Blassie-the man who taught me everything I know that."

didn't realize what it was. You got every time we wrestle!" Freddie's style; that ain't just good, it's great!"

mine in what Freddie showed me about you understand?"

cheated us out of winning tonight. My could get my hands on that dirty Jap who did him in!"

-calls 'em the way he sees 'em like days," Monroe interjected; "time is on cided. First of all, Blassie gave his our side. Meanwhile, though, we've got "Fred Blassie is one of the finest more important things to do-and by gentlemen who ever stepped into a 'we,' I mean just that. You and me have wrestling ring," Monroe agreed. "I got to team up, on account of that's zan," Freddie pointed out, "and I knew noticed somehow that you had class the only way we can take care of these when I first saw you wrestle, but I meatheads who are plotting against us

"Gee, Sputnik," Tyler hedged, "I kind of like the idea, but I'd have to you and I was partners!" "Yeah," Tyler agreed, "I got a gold ask Freddie first. He still advises me;

"in fact, let's call him right now. Me and him speak the same language. Better yet, let's fly up to Georgia and see

"Right now?" Tyler asked, finding it hard to believe that this man would consider so rash a move.

"Hell ves." Monroe answered. "You can get a plane out of Miami airport at any hour of the night."

"Yeah," Tyler agreed, "to New York, maybe, but to Decatur, Georgia?"

"Okay, so we'll charter a plane," Monroe answered.

"But wouldn't that be expensive?" Tyler inquired.

"Of course," Sputnik pointed out, but so what? This is important. Besides, guys like you and me ought to charter planes once in awhile, just so that people will get the idea that we like to go first class."

And so Tarzan Tyler and Sputnik Monroe took a taxi to Miami International Airport, where they discovered that there were no scheduled flights to Decatur, Georgia, before morning. They chartered a plane, and a few hours later, in the wee hours of the morning. they called on their mutual friend. Fred Blassie.

"What in blazes do you guys want?" Blassie demanded as he opened his front door and beheld two men, standing as silhouettes before the first reddish rays of dawn.

"Sputnik says him and me oughta team up," Tarzan offered; "what do you think?"

"I think you're both nuts," Blassie replied, "and you're a couple of illmannered slobs for gettin' me up this early. Now if you were to keep me up this late, that would be different. but when you wear out all the night spots, then come to see old Freddie. that's pretty crude!"

"You don't understand, Freddie," Tyler pleaded, "we got important business to discuss with you."

"Okay," Freddie conceded, "come on in. I might as well talk to you guys

As three of the meanest men who ever climbed into a ring talked busi-"We'll get to that jerk one of these ness, several important things were de-"blessing" to the Tyler-Monroe com-

"I seen Monroe get his start, Tarright off that he was our kind of people. He's got class. Just like you and I got class! You and him team up, and the sky's the limit-just like it was when

As for the possibility of Blassie's managing the new team, it was decided wrestling. It's just a shame he's not "So ask Freddie," Monroe urged; that this would be impractical, at least

give advice and counsel when neces- ler and Monroe went to promoters sary, but a fulltime managership would throughout the Southeast and demandhave to wait.

As for the strategy to be employed by this new team, all three agreed that it would be best to follow the philosophy each had employed individually: Win. To hell with the rules, to was shooting craps on a blanket comhell with everthing-just win!

Thus was born an unholy alliance complished in the ring!" which was to disgust as well as disrupt

ed matches with the top tag teams in each locale. They got them.

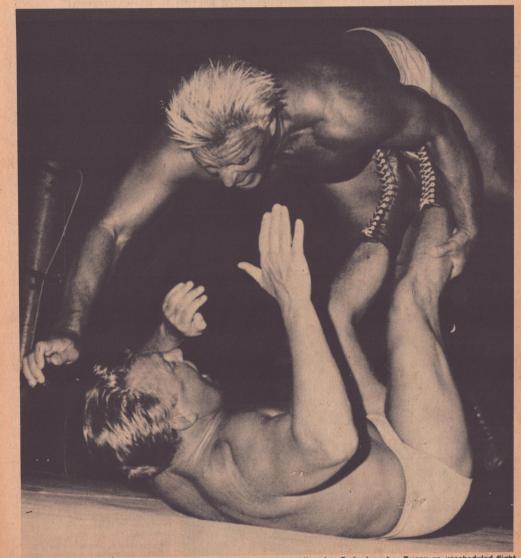
"Ulysses S. Grant may think he raised some hell south of the Mason-Dixon line," Monroe informed us, "but he pared to what me and big Tarzan ac-

For all of Monroe's boastfulness, one

for awhile. Freddie would continue to the world of professional wrestling. Ty- has to concede that he was right: The Monroe-Tyler combination was mighty hard to beat, by means fair or foul.

"And these sissy wrestlers tried every dirty trick they could think of against me and my buddy, Sputnik," Tyler added. "One time four of 'em came after us in the ring. It was awful unfair, but me and Monroe stood our ground and whipped those cowards!"

"That was what really sold me on Tarzan Tyler," Monroe put in. "I knew



Science says that Sputnik does the flying, but George Drake, on mat, says otherwise. Drake launches Tarzan on unscheduled flight.

he was a great wrestler and equal to "they're a disembodied Frankenstein he objected. "You ask my partner. We any kind of a fair fight, but when I Monster!" saw how much guts he had-when I has got guts!"

tlemen" were confronted with four first two and were in the process of attempt to halt this carnage-unfortunately, they were unsuccessful.

past, I shudder," Monroe observed. "I've had guys quit on me, even when I was doin' all the work and they was just goin' in for a couple minutes while I rested. I messed up a few jerks who did that, too," he added, "because I don't think a guy with my brains ought to be the workhorse on a tag team. much less put up with incompetence!"

According to Mr. Monroe, the relationship between himself and Tarzan Tyler is such that Sputnik's cunning mind tells Tarzan's huge, powerful body what to do. "Those two aren't just a

"Let's face it," Monroe boasted, guys with both fists and both feet wrestlers together, you can't help hav- my department!" knocking them over, I knew that I'd ing a winning combination. Tarzan Tyteamed up with a real man! My face ler isn't stupid; he's a top competitor ain't pretty; that's because I don't quit. in singles matches, and can outthink I got guts, and my tag team partner's just about any wrestler around. As for got to have guts, too. Tarzan Tyler me, I ain't takin' a back seat to nobody Without a doubt, both Mr. Tyler has a specialty, though; with Tyler, it's and Mr. Monroe have "got guts." But his body. He makes a gorilla look like ly he wasn't threatening! our readers might be interested to know a 97-pound weakling. With me, it's my that, on the occasion when these "gen- brain. I'm not the biggest man in the bers of the press," Monroe reassured business, and I've had to think my way men, they had already defeated the out of quite a few situations, just to keep from gettin' killed! Combine his abusing their prostrate opponents after attributes and mine, and vou've got a the match was officially over. The sec- tag team that would make Frank Gotch ond two men entered the ring in an and Strangler Lewis look like the Bobsev Twins!"

It would seem, then, that Sputnik "When I think of some of the jerks Monroe has assumed the role of leader I've had to wrestle partners with in the in this highly controversial—and highly successful — alliance. "You gotta have one chief and one Indian," Monroe informed television wrestling commentator Gordon Solie.

"And you're the chief?" Gordon in-

"You bet your polka-dot underdrawers I am, smart guy!" Monroe

We took the liberty of asking Tarzan Tyler if he concurred with this evaluation of the Tyler-Monroe tag team structure. Tarzan didn't seem to be in

agreed he was gonna handle the medium. You wanna get busted up or saw him wade right into those four "when you get the world's two greatest sumpin', come back and see me-that's

Needless to say, this reporter had no desire to participate in any physical encounter with this, hulking individual whose shoulders are so broad that he must turn sideways to get through most in the physical department. Each of us doors. At least Monroe would talk to you; he might be insulting, but ordinari-

> "I always got time to talk with memus, "at least I have when they behave themselves. When they go to disruptin' my partner's strenuous training routine by askin' him a lot of damn fool questions which I've already answered. though, that's a jackass of another color! I told you who was the brains of this outfit, but you had to go and bother my partner just because you didn't believe what I told you. That's gratitude for you! Anything else you want to know, pencil-neck, just figure it out for vourself!"

> Having offended the obviously sensitive nature of Mr. Monroe, and having already been assured of no cooperation from Mr. Tyler, we proceeded to figure things out for ourselves, just as Sputnik had suggested. We stationed a man with a camera in a position to capture a shot of Tarzan Tyler in the process of accomplishing his several daily miles of roadwork along the Florida beaches. We observed Sputnik Monroe offering advice and counsel to his partner. But more important, we took notice-and pictures-of what these men did in the ring.

When Tarzan Tyler talks of running several miles daily, when Sputnik Monroe speaks of a "rigorous training schedule," these men know whereof they speak. A dozen miles a day is not unusual for Tyler, except when he's wrestling the same night. On these occasions, he "takes it easy" by running only four or five miles. As a rule. his partner is right there beside him. "eating up the road." These men are fanatical in their determination to become the world's greatest tag team. Of course, there's nothing wrong with two wrestlers undertaking a rigorous training schedule in order to excel in their chosen field; such an undertaking is, in fact, commendable. It is what these two have done with their hardearned ability to win that makes one question the character-and, yes, even the sanity of these two men.

Eve-gouging is a tactic which, as a rule, even the roughest wrestlers use only in desperation or in the heat of battle. With Sputnik Monroe, however,

a finger in an opponent's eve is as likely to be an opening move as is the traditional "referee's hold." As for Tyler, he comes on by grabbing an opponent's hair with one hand, turning his man away from the referee's field of vision, then smashing a huge fist to the man's face. Mind you, these are not examples of how far these men will go to win a match—this is how they start—things really get brutal later on!

Monroe, for instance, has a pet tactic —a little something that puts karate to shame: He pokes his thumb into an opponent's Adam's apple. And, if this dangerous, sub-street brawling maneuver weren't bad enough, Sputnik occasionally brings a piece of metal into the ring, concealing it in his trunks. So clever is this man in the manipulation of this "hidden asset," that his opponents rarely know about it until they wake up in the dressing room with their eves full of their own blood.

Foreign objects aren't at all foreign to Tarzan Tyler, either. Many ringsiders contend that the "ape man" has something other than a foot and a sock in his shoe. When he brings his big right foot down on an opponent's head, that's usually all for the victim.

All in all, the tactics of Tarzan Tyler and Sputnik Monroe are the most brutal, most disgusting ever witnessed by this reporter in some ten years of covering wrestling matches.

The only possibility of this combination's getting what it deserves in the ring would seem to be the formation of another, equally devastating tag team. Perhaps Lou Thesz and Karl Gotch, or Gene Kiniski and Dick The Bruiser could get the job done-per-

Of course, a falling out between Tyler and Monroe would do the trick. A difference of opinion as to who was calling the shots could conceivably constitute a rift in their relationship, but this would be a sad disappointment for an interested public who'd like to see these two soundly defeated. Besides, Monroe and Tyler aren't likely to fall out as long as the sweet smell of success is in their nostrils.

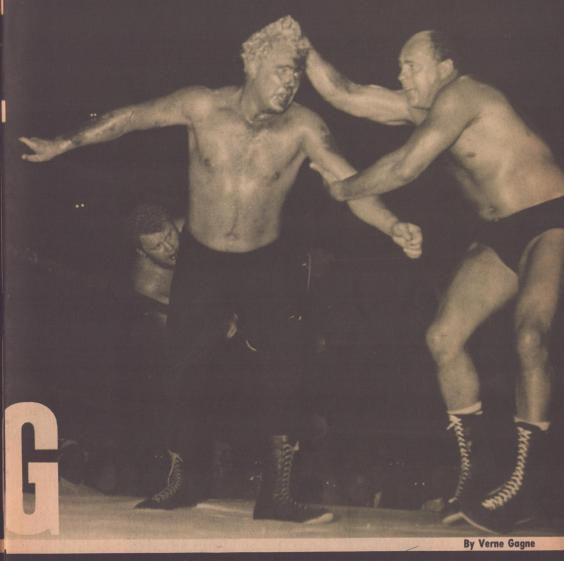
The sport of wrestling has survived turmoil and tempest in the past, and there's little doubt that it will survive the unholy alliance of Tarzan Tyler and Sputnik Monroe. Wrestling has many fine athletes who are a credit to the game, and only a few like Monroe and Tyler. Indeed, the sport will survive, but it's doubtful that wrestling will be any the better for having experienced the controversial combination of these, two of the most vicious individuals who ever climbed into a roped square.



Monroe says of Tyler, right: "He makes a gorilla look like a 97-pound weakling."



Grim Sputnik Monroe, a rough-and-tumble brawler, tears at the eyes of victim Atlas.



FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT GAGNE:

Won Minnesota State high-school heavyweight championship; won NCAA and AAU titles; youngest member of the University of Minnesota football team, starting at end when 17; played pro football with Green Bay Packers; as a family man, competitor, box-office attraction and a personality both "live" and on television, he has done a selling job for the sport unequalled by anyone in recent years.

Who deseres to sit on the professional wrestling throne as KING?

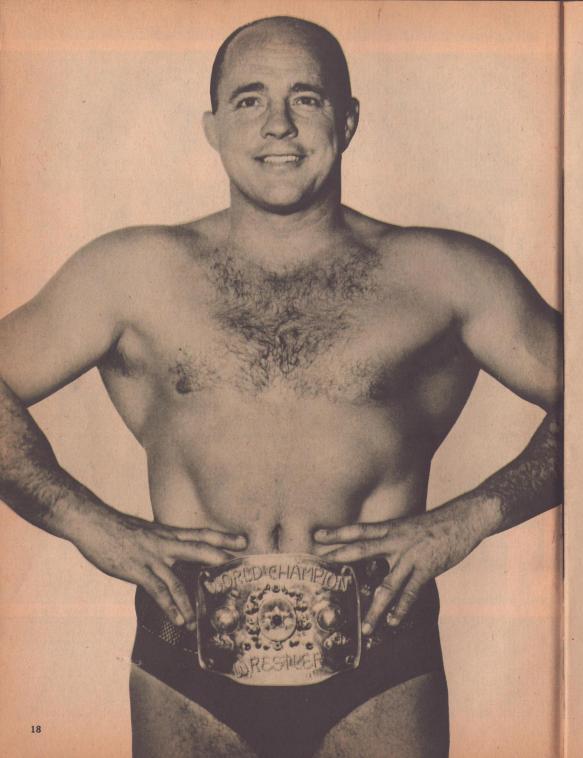
With all due modesty, I believe I do, and I am ready to put my head on a chopping block to prove it.

To settle the burning global controversy, I

here and now propose a "World Series of Wrestling" with the survivor receiving a record-smashing, fantastic \$500,000 jackpot.

My proposal may be as popular as the plague would be furious—but conclusive. and may strike with the force of an atomic bomb knows who'll win. Gagne, of course. It may be met with some eye-

Veteran Verne Gagne wants to settle once and for all who is the best wiestler alive today. Every contender would put up \$10,000 and the champ would get \$500,000. With such high stakes, the competition would be furious—but conclusive. Gagne says he knows who'll win. Gagne, of course.



brow-raising among my rivals and I am taking the gamble of becoming as unpopular as a hit-and-run driver.

But this isn't a dream or a fantasy. It can easily be a reality.

A world-wide tournament is the only way to end the raging arguments over who is the greatest wrestler. It has become, in my candid opinion, too easy for a promoter to label his fair-haired boy a state, sectional or world champion.

Championship claims of some wrestlers are strictly a farce. They have no credentials-physical or mental.

For publicity purposes and fan appeal, titles are important. The appearance of a champion adds luster to a wrestling card and makes the turnstiles click. But titles should be won on ability, not personality or popularity.

Before a wrestler allows his name to be emblazoned in headlines and on marquees let him search his conscience and ask: "Am I a worthy champion. Do I really deserve the honor?"

I have asked myself these questions thousands of times in the last four years and the answer has always been "YES."

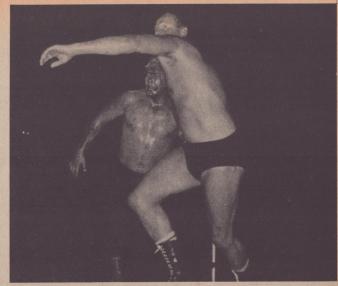
seven and was forced into my first fist fight, I have always respected my challengers. I still do.

Because I dispute the world title claims of Bruno Sammartino, Gene Kiniski, Lou Thesz, Bill Watts, Kinji Shibuya, Ray Stevens, Crusher and Mad Dog Vachon, this doesn't mean I don't respect their ability. I truthfully do. They are all powerful men, wellconditioned, owning relentless and aggressive attacks. They are great wrestlers and have worked hard to win fame and fortune.

But so have I, and, though it's absolute folly to underestimate the ability of the above-named men, I honestly believe I'm the best of the bunch.

suggesting a "World Series of Wrestling." To give it a true, international flavor, it should include the best from should be able to visualize the glamor the globe, and we have the nucleus for and potential of my proposed "World such a grouping right here in the United Series."

and Pampero Firpo (South America), Waldo Von Erich (Germany), Igor is the greatest in history. (Poland), Chris Markoff (Yugoslavia),



Since I was a grubby-faced kid of Gagne has respect for all of his rivals but feels confident that he's best of the bunch.

wrestling.

The entry fees along with 20 per cent of the gate from every match would be set aside and ultimately awarded to the champion. This would be the largest financial bonanza in professional wrestling history.

Millions of dollars more would be within easy reach of the winner of the tournament which could extend from New York to Tokyo, from Rio de Janeiro to Rome, from Paris to Los Angeles, from London to Bombay.

Because of the importance of each bout, the money involved and the wrestlers' demands to meet in a neutral And to prove it is the reason I am city, one match might even be held in Moscow.

Even the most skeptical promoters

Today sports attendance is zooming I mean fellows like Kiniski (Can- and fans are spending a record \$40 ada). Sammartino (Italy), Edward billion a year, five times more than Carpentier (France), Antonino Rocca they are expending on medical care. Wrestling crowds in the last ten years Karl Gotch, Hans Schmidt, Fritz and have hit an all-time high and interest

This popularity is no accident. To-Mighty Hercules (Spain), Ian Camp- day's wrestlers, from the preliminary bell (Scotland) Mistu Arakawa and boys to the stars, deserve most of the Baba (Japan). There would be others, credit. They have brought skill and of course, but to show I mean business speed into a sport that was formerly when I challenge anyone, I propose an just a match of strength and stamina. entry fee of \$10,000. That should sepa- They have added a touch of showmanrate the men from the boys right off, ship, too, and it's paid off handsomely so that whoever survived the tourna- for everyone. The fans have seen more

ment would really be the "King" of and better wrestling than ever before; promoters, who have used imagination and good judgment, have made money and wrestlers' incomes have zoomed.

> That's why I believe the \$10,000 entry fee won't be a stumbling block to the "World Series." After all, any genuine contender can afford it.

> Any wrestler, who orally or in writing disputes my claim to the title, should be willing to challenge me and any other contender in the ring.

> With every Series match a best twoout-of-three-fall affair, the road to the championship will be hazardous and gruelling. It will take talent, stamina, strength and courage to eliminate all contenders.

> Pressure and tension will be tremendous as contenders battle their foes before screaming, jeering and perhaps hostile crowds which run up to 100,000 and maybe more.

> I can see a match in Rio de Janeiro. involving the sensational leg artist Rocca, attracting maybe 150,000 highly partisan fans. In Berlin, Gotch, Schmidt and the Von Erichs would be great drawing cards, while in Rome, Sammartino would be the man of the hour. Baba, the seven-foot giant, would pack them in in Japan, while tens of thousands of Parisans would flock to see Carpentier. In India, Dara Singh would have the power of a snake charmer in attracting fans. In London, George Gordienko would probably rival the Beatles for the affection of Her Mai-

(continued on page 65)



Violent in the ring, the boys playfully inspect toys outside it.



Hiro Matsuda watches Kanji Inoki, left, evaluate product. 20

MIAIDIE IIN JAIPAN

Almost anyone who has bought an article in a department store is familiar with the "Made in Japan" label Kanji Inoki and Hiro Matsuda are the genuine articles. They were in a Knoville, Tenn. department store recently and were checking a number of articles, probably looking for a "Made in U.S.A." label. Anyway, when it comes to their trade of wrestling, they're Japanese all the way with their judo specialties.



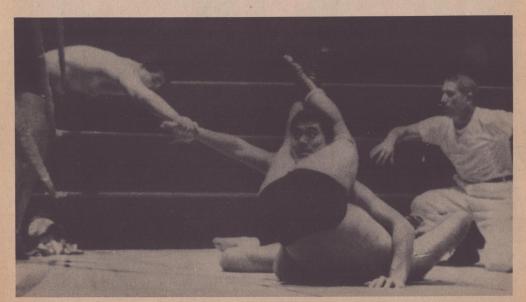
The boys check the labels and get a good laugh.



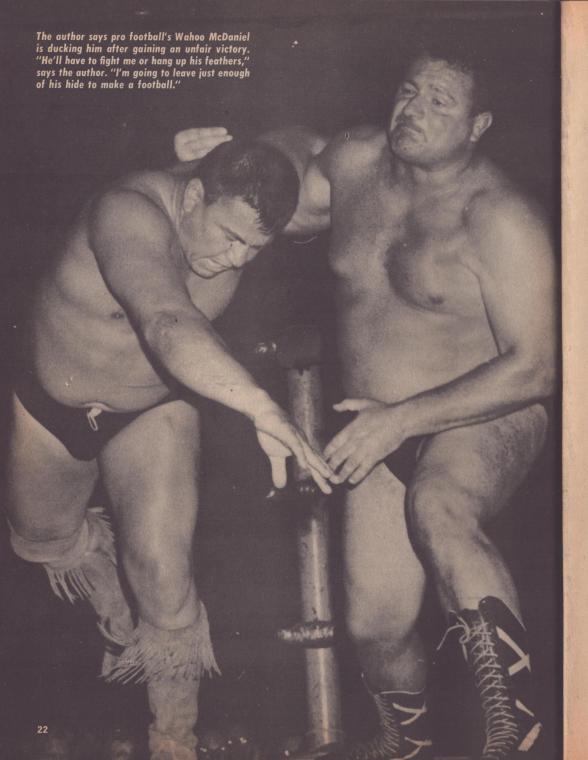
Barefoot Inoki rearranges Len Rossi's face in ring action.

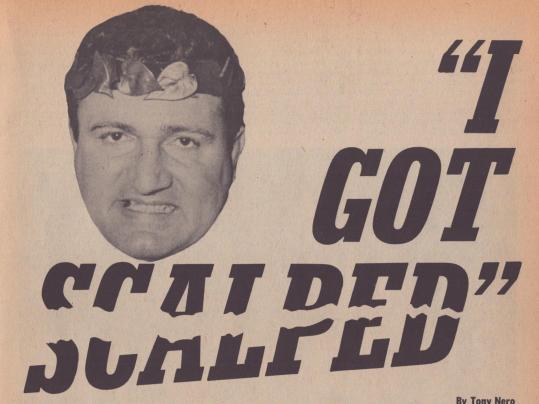


Matsuda punishes Len. Rossi some more with a knee-drop.



Inoki's face gets a frame, but despite the head-scissors by Billy Wicks, Kanji tagged out with Matsuda. Inoki and Matsuda won match.





By Tony Nero

Anytime some wrestler wants to make a name for himself in the business, the first thing he does is to ask some promoter for a match with me-Tony Nero! Anybody who gets by me is just about sure to get a match with Gene Kiniski or Bruno Sammartino. I've stopped the "meteoric climb to the top" of more than one snot-nosed kid who thought he was man enough to mix it up with the big boys. If you can beat Tony Nero, you've made it-but don't count on doing it!

A lefthanded mousetrap-tester could count on his remaining fingers the number of aspiring young punks who have asked for a match with me, gotten it and won. Usually, it's a case of me sendin' them back to the dressing room on a stretcher, then loaning them enough money to get patched up. I don't mind stakin' an opponent to cab fare, you see-just as long as he leaves the arena in a meat wagon!

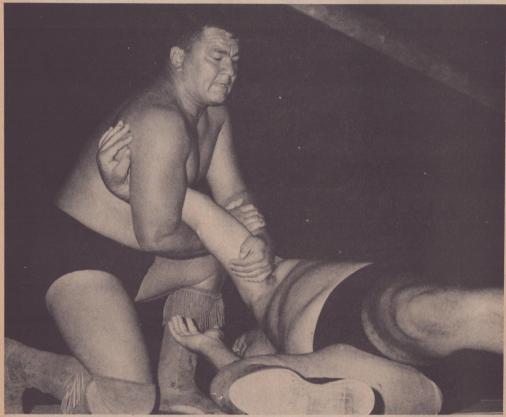
I think by now you're getting the picture: I'm what they call a "spoiler." I'm one of the toughest, one of the meanest guys in a business where 200-pounders are considered runts



and where a kick in the groin or a

cupational hazards. I don't take any from a reservation makes a decent livnonsense from anybody. Basically, I'm ing playing pro football, and for this a nice guy: like I said, I sometimes he should be thankful, because when I even get to feelin' sorry for a guy I was playing football I used to run over messed up and advance him a few linebackers like him the way a steambucks for bandages. I don't feel sorry roller flattens frogs! This impudent red-

I have reference particularly to one ways pulls for the fair-haired punks thumb in the eye are every-day oc- "Chief" Wahoo McDaniel. This refugee Instead of being impartial and letting me mix it up with this squaw-man, this billiard-ball referee calls me down every time I even get a little rough, but he lets this Indian get away with bloody murder. I'm a clean, scientific wrestler -I'm rough, but I go by the rules. Of for any sucker when I've got him in skin had the audacity to ask for a course, when some guy wants to get the ring, though. Any jerk who makes match with me one time. I agreed, feel- dirty, I can go that route, too. That's the mistake of taking on Tough Tony- ing that a big man who'd made himself what made me so mad when I fought



Nero, on mat, is being mauled by Wahoo McDaniel, but insists, "If the referee had been fair, I'd have taken that redskin apart."

look so promising. For an oldtimer, it's this man. HA! apt to be the end-finis!

With me, wrestling is a way of life. and lay off when the going gets rough. with one of those melon heads who al-

a youngster. For others it's the point a good athlete and a worthy opponent. at which a promising career ceases to I expected a good, clean match from apart—I'd have dis-assembled him

I got scalped! That Indian would not just a sideline. It's bread and butter wind up right back in Pueblo, Coloand a new car and a trip to the islands rado, if he ever got as dirty on the every year. To some jerks, though, it's football field, in front of five officials, just frosting on the cake. I'm talking as he did in the ring with me that about certain individuals who make night. Most wrestling referees would most of their money doing something have disqualified him for what he did. else and wrestle when they feel like it but I had the lousy luck to be in there

well, it's just a part of growing up for a reputation in pro football should be McDaniel; if the referee had been a fair man, I'd have taken that redskin right there in the middle of the ring!

In case anybody's wondering what kind of illegal tactics this Indian used, you might better wonder what kind he didn't use! Mostly, though, it was a kind of chop to the throat—like karate. I told the referee, but he gave me some kind of hogwash about how this was legal. Can you imagine that-something as dangerous as karate being legal? I protested to the commission

and everything, but all those meatheads already been signed." have the cards stacked against a guy like me.

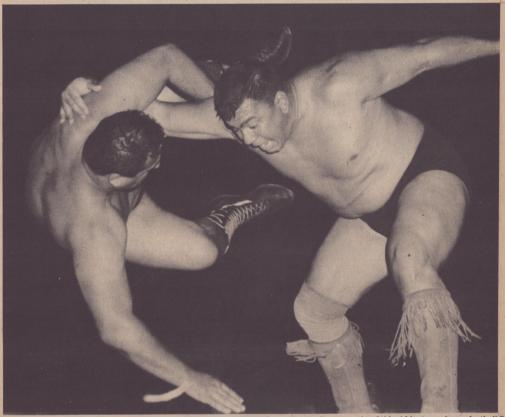
obvious that no one cared about the promoter getting his thin-skinned Inraw deal I got from this animated dian a pushover. Next time, he put feather duster—I did what any red- McDaniel in a tag team match. After ding in that sport! blooded man would do under the cir- that, nothing but more run-around. cumstances: I went to the promoter That redskin ran from me like the U.S. and demanded that McDaniel wrestle Cavalry was after him! me in a no-holds-barred, no-disquali-

Come next week, McDaniel wrestles some runt and beats him in three min-After all else failed—when it became utes. It was an obvious case of the

I got a plan, though, and I don't I'm gonna quit being so damn nice to

to wrestle Tony Nero. Then, by George, he just might find his image slipping when my friends write about how Mc-Daniel ought to stick to football and leave wrestling to people like me who have proven themselves to be outstand-

Like I said before. I'm basically a nice guy! Rough, but still a nice guy.



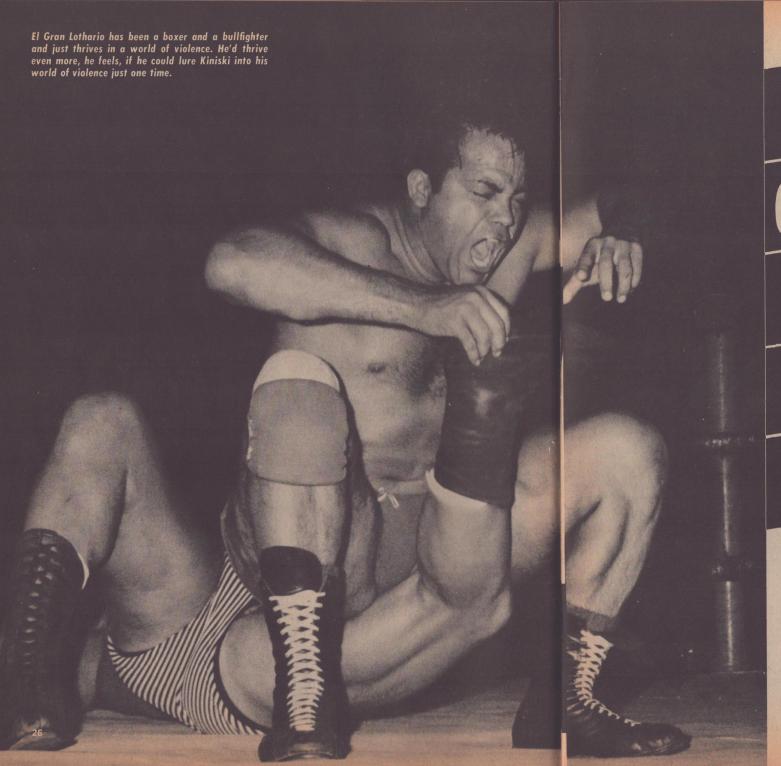
Tony, left, said Wahoo fought dirty. "Next time," says Nero, "I'm going to leave just enough of his hide to make a football."

Nero.

ing and making up a lot of flimsy ex- wrestle me or hang up his feathers! cuses. He'd gotten ahold of this Indian, hoping to make a big killing beagain!

ball star. He knew I'd spoil his big world of sports. Big, important sports- his hide to make a football. I'll peranother match next week; the contract's posedly tough football player is scared nice guy!

fication match. I said if he wanted to care if Mr. Wahoo McDaniel knows people like this Wahoo McDaniel, play rough, that was just fine by Tony what it is, because it won't do him any though; I'm fed up with gettin' raw good. When I get finished gettin' the deals. I got scalped one time, but un-Well, the promoter started stammer- word out on this guy, he'll have to like General Custer, I'm still available to go another round with this second cousin to Sitting Bull. Next time I get I know a lot of important people; Wahoo McDaniel in that ring, I'm cause of McDaniel's being a pro foot- I've got a lot of big connections in the going to leave just about enough of money man if I got him in the ring writers call me when I come to town. sonally give that particular pigskin to I'm going to give these guys the real the Miami Dolphins, so that their in-"He's already beat you, Nero," this low-down on Mr. Wahoo McDaniel vestment in Wahoo McDaniel won't be promoter tells me; "I've got him in I'm going to tell them that this sup- a total loss. After all, I'm basically a



"ONE DAY GENE KINISKI WILL HAVE TO WRESTLE ME!"

By Jerry Prater

"That young fellow is great!" exclaimed a Mexican wrestling promoter (in his native tongue, of course) the first time he saw Jose Lothario in action. Jose had been a boxer and a good one. He'd also been a bullfighter. At this particular moment, though, he was showing a comparatively small crowd in a little Mexican town that he could wrestle.

The happy promoter called Jose "great," as did the fans. The name stuck and, even today, some years later, Jose is introduced to capacity crowds in our nation's biggest wrestling arenas as "El Gran Lothario;" El Gran meaning "The Great."

Watching El Gran Lothario wrestle several wrestlers, some of whom had competitor. It's not necessary for him in the mat game. He has a "finishing he weren't tempted to go beyond beat- A lesser man might be tempted toward the most devastating legal maneuvers in "Sure," he admitted, "I'm tempted sort of thing is beneath a man of Loseries of moves.

"I don't doubt that I could break a maybe he deserves it." man's leg if I wanted to," he told us. To hear Jose tell it, he's just plain

wrestling. Grasping an opponent's toe to do this a lot of times. The only thario's caliber. with both hands, he launches himself thing is, when I start to make this move, into the air, coming down with the I know I've got the man. I know that full weight of his body on the man's I'm going to get the winner's share of leg. Following two or three repetitions the purse while he gets the loser's. And of this, Jose applies a half Boston I know that I'm one step closer to a crab, whereupon the toughest of op- title match, and he's one step further ponents cry "Uncle!" We asked Jose if away. Knowing this, I just don't have he could break a man's leg with this the heart to put the man out of action for several months too, even though .We asked him why he gave up the

"Normally, though, I don't want to soft-hearted. It's true that he has the break somebody's leg. If I can paralyze measure of human decency which fans the leg long enough to make the man and other wrestlers admire, but his regive up, that's good enough for me." luctance to cripple an opponent prob-We pointed out that Jose had been ably stems from another factor:

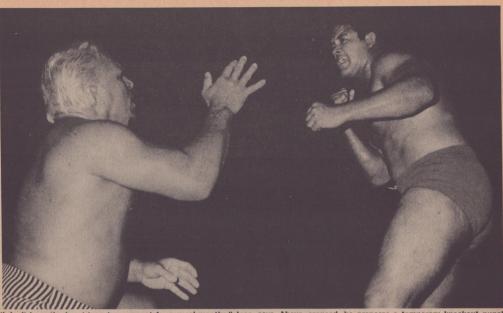
is indeed a pleasure. He's fast and agile tried to inflict injury upon the amiable to injure opponents in order to make as a cat, yet heavy enough to mix it Mexican. We asked if, when wrestling a name for himself; he can do this up on equal terms with the biggest men a man he really had cause to dislike, simply by virtue of his winning ways. hold" which is without a doubt among ing the man and actually fracture a leg. such deliberate destructiveness, but this

> As we pointed out earlier Jose Lothario's sports background is as varied and as colorful as a hand-woven blanket from his native land. As a boxer, he was a man to be reckoned with—a serious threat to every opponent he faced, even those who were top-rated.

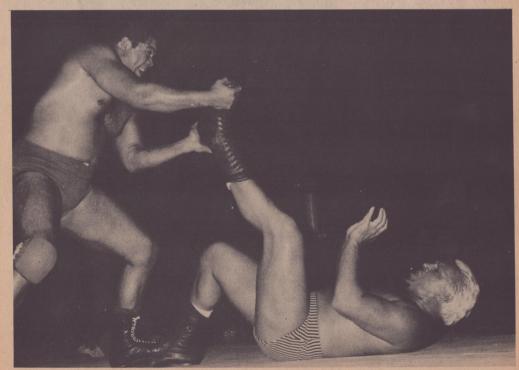
"In boxing," he explained, "you are judged on your performance by three people. These judges are almost invariably good, honest men who know a lot about boxing, but they're still human. People make errors in judgment, and a in some rather fierce blood-feuds with El Gran Lothario is a very capable mistake like this can cost a fighter a



Jose, a man of many skills, has fought bulls and boxed. When he really gets mad, above, he can wield a chair with the best of them, 28



"I don't have the heart to put a man out for several months," Jose says. Above, aroused, he prepares a temporary knockout punch.



"I don't want to break somebody's leg. If I can paralyze the leg long enough to make the man give up, that's good enough for me."

very important match.

"I'll admit." he went on. "I don't know of any better way to do it. Boxing is a good sport and I don't want to say anything bad about it; it's just that decisions based on the observations of three men-three men who may not even agree with each other-are not really very satisfying. Sure, you get the money and maybe a better opponent next time, but it still leaves you wondering. You always ask yourself, what if that split decision had been two to one against me, instead of in my favor?

"Actually, that very thing happened to me once. I was boxing a man from the United States; the bout was held in Mexico. It was a very close fight. I felt like I had an edge on the man, but I guess he felt that he was out in front. I was declared the winner, but it was a split decision.

"I don't know why I felt bad," Jose continued: "I guess maybe it was the way that fellow looked at me, as if to say, 'Buddy, you sure got yourself a home-town victory!' That bothered me. Later, I wished they'd called it a draw, even though I felt that I had earned the decision. This had a lot to do with making me want to hang up my gloves."

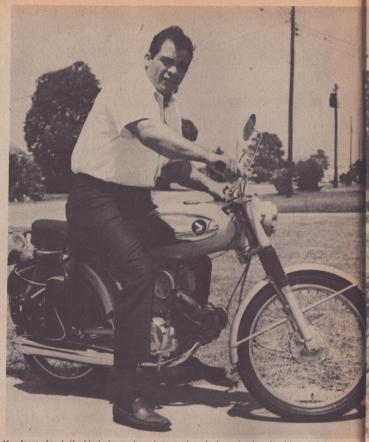
Bullfighting is another sport in which El Gran Lothario participated quite successfully for awhile. Death in the afternoon was a familiar thing to Jose, just as it is to thousands of Mexican sports fans. Like other young men, Jose Lothario spent his youth longing to wear the colorful garb of the idolized matador.

"In Mexico," Jose pointed out, "a very good bullfighter is a national hero -like Stan Musial, Lou Thesz or Paul Hornung are in this country. The big difference there is that bullfighting is the sport. Sure, we have just about all the other sports you have in the United bullfighting.

"Little boys play bullfighters in Mexico; they take turns being the bull. Even the poorest people go to the bullfights as often as they can. The best seats in the arena are occupied by the wealthiest, most distinguished persons in all Mexico. Tourists from the United States and other countries consider a trip to the bullfights a must. Bullfighting that the two are inseparable!"

able to become a success as a bullfightlife's work?"

"Like a lot other things," Jose ex-When I was a boy, I saw the bullfights beasts, armed only with a cape and a



Handsome Jose's the kind of guy who gets around, and, above, he does it with real style.

a few times a year. I always held my small shaft of steel. They might apbreath when the bull charged, for fear States, but they all take a back seat to the matador would not dodge the beast if they did! in time. When the bullfighter made the kill, I would cheer, along with every- Jose admitted. "You asked why I gave

because it generally consists of a man killing an animal," he continued; "these people feel sorry for the bull. But I ask: Do they not realize that men have killed cattle for thousands of years? Bulls which are killed in the arena are time. is so very important a part of Mexico used for food-often given to the poor. As for the humanitarian aspects of "Why then," we asked, "if you were bullfighting, I would point out that every matador tries for a quick, clean er, did you not pursue this as your kill. This pleases the audience and also I'd kill each bull I faced—and the reduces the chance of injury to the bullfighter and the other men who work in also knew that one day, I'd make a plained, "when you get close to bull- the bullring. Perhaps some of bullfight- mistake. That's all it takes; one very fighting—when you live with it every ing's critics should take a little time small mistake, and you're impaled upon day-a lot of the glamour goes away. to consider the man who faces these the beast's horns.

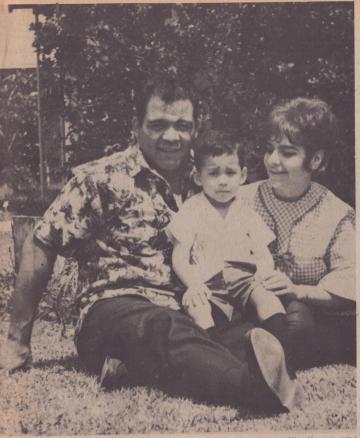
preciate their roast beef a little more

"But that's getting off the subject," up bullfighting, and now that I've de-"Some people condemn bullfighting fended it, you're probably wondering even more.

"When I fought the bull, I knew I was going to kill him. I feared him. but I knew I would win. Without this attitude, a bullfighter wouldn't last any

"And yet, the best bullfighters are gored. They are injured, sometimes killed. Few survive a career in the bullring unscathed. Just as I knew that next one, and the one after that-I

"As a bullfighter, I knew that prob-



El Gran Lothario's unrelenting in the ring, but he's gentle at home with wife and child.

ably I would walk away from the arena losing was severe indeed.

"Had I been the sort of man who Jose Lothario better than that. Before I would retire, it would have to next week I'll give up wrestling for hands on one of his feet. After that, be proven to me that I was, as you say football or something," he smiled. "I'll Gene Kiniski-and the belt-will be in this country, 'over the hill.' A tell you something: I don't think I'll mine!" wrestler becomes aware of this grad- ever quit wrestling to do anything else. few thousand people.

"Bullfighting was a great experience. amid the cheers of the crowd, yet there I enjoyed it, but I retired young, so was always that possibility that I would that I could go on to make a name for be carried away with my blood, and not myself in other sports. It wasn't easy the bull's, spilled on the sand. It was to give up the cape and sword, but I like playing Russian Roulette: The odds knew that bullfighting was not the were favorable, but the penalty for sport for a man who does not know when to quit."

We asked El Gran Lothario if, in could have fought the bulls for a few wrestling, he felt that he had found years, saved my money and retired at the competitive sport which was right the peak of my career, I might have for him. He studied the question mo-

and more often. Unless he is a fool, There's nothing to hold you back. A no one can avoid him forever. He's he can get out in time. But with the man who is ambitious and willing to a real gentleman whose popularity is matador, the end of a career comes sud- travel can wrestle several times a week well-deserved. And he's a man whom denly, on a hot afternoon, before a if he wants to. It's hard for anyone Gene Kiniski may someday wish had to avoid you this way; if a man has stuck with boxing or bullfighting!

a championship and you can follow him wherever he goes, always issuing challenges, he can't evade you forever."

Asked how he felt about the everpresent possibility of sustaining a serious injury on the mat, Jose replied, "As I see it, your chances of getting hurt in wrestling are what you make them. You've got to stay in shape so that you can make the right defensive moves, even when your opponent has the upper hand. When a man is too worn out to avoid a body slam, he could very well be injured. Conditioning counts in avoiding sprains and fractures!

"Of course, it's equally important to know good defensive moves," Jose pointed out. "A lot of fellows are real tough: they're big and strong, but when things aren't going their way, they are really in trouble. They get on their knees and beg to the guy they were beating hell out of a few minutes ago. They do this because they are not good defensive wrestlers and they know that this could very well get them hurt seri-

"Basically, avoiding injury is a matter of staying in shape and knowing how to get out of tight spots. In wrestling, a man makes his own odds against getting hurt."

Every wrestler has a goal. To some, it is getting to the top, to others it is staying on top. A few are satisfied to make a living. We asked Jose what his primary ambition was.

"I want to wrestle a big man," he began; "a fellow who weighs 275 pounds and who wears a belt which says, 'World Heavyweight Champion.' His name is Gene Kiniski. He doesn't want to wrestle me, but one day he will have to".

We pointed out that Kiniski is not only big, he is fast and a virtual savage in the ring-a man who would do anything to avoid losing the belt. We asked Jose how he would wrestle against such a man.

"I'll save my leg hold for the deciding fall." he answered. "Knowing this won't do Mr. Kiniski any good, though," he continued, "because the first fall could be the one to decide the outcome of the match, especially if Gene Kiniski has to hobble about on one leg therestayed with bullfighting. But I know mentarily, then answered with a grin. after. In any event, I'll be real cautious "I suppose by now you think maybe and wait for an opportunity to get both

El Gran Lothario has big plans, but ually, as he starts getting beaten more "In wrestling, the sky's the limit. he has them well laid out. As he says,



Ever since I left Italy as a child, I always dreamed about returning there one day. My dream was finally realized. I'll never forget the trip as long as I live. Some of the memories were sad and some were tender as I saw relatives I never thought I would see again.

On Tuesday morning, March 29, 1966, my wife Carol and my son David suddenly found ourselves at New York's JFK Airport getting ready to board a TWA flight to Rome. It may not sound so unusual in that hundreds of people do the same thing every day. It was different in many respects. First of all, we were going to Rome for a private audience with Pope Paul. Secondly, I was also going to return to my hometown for the first time since I left to come to America and finally, this was my first vacation with my family in the nine years I've been a wrestler.

We were scheduled to land in Paris first for a one-hour stop and also were scheduled for a one-hour stop in Milan before landing in Rome. We landed in Paris at 1 A.M. and decided to get off the plane and look around the airport. There weren't too many people around. The Paris Airport is very beautiful .The floors are either all marble or covered with rugs.

As time was getting closer, we couldn't help but discuss tomorrow, (actually later in the day) and what's going to happen with our audience with Pope Paul. As we were getting closer to Rome, we were getting all the more nervous. Today was going to be a big one for us. I am not sure David, who is only six, realizes what its all about. He seems to be very happy so far about the whole thing.

We landed in Rome and went directly to the Excelsior Hotel. We got there around 3:30 A.M., and later this day we were going to see the Pope.

We put David to bed, but Carol and I couldn't sleep. We tried but couldn't relax long enough to fall asleep. We stayed awake discussing this day and everything that's going to happen. We never got to bed at all. We were very nervous and were wondering if everything would turn out well. The hour was getting close when we would be leaving for the Vatican. We got dressed and then awakened David. We had breakfast in the hotel and then left for the Vatican.

We waited for about 5 minutes but it seemed like 45 hours. I was very nervous about what was about to take place. My wife was very nervous and was worried about what to say or do. David was quite anxious. He kept asking when the Pope was coming and to be sure and tell him that he was a good boy.

He was the only one that didn't show any signs of nervousness. We kept reminding him to remain quiet when the Pope came and not to speak a word. The only time we told him he could speak was when the Pope asked him a question. David is not what you would call a bashful child. He speaks quite a bit and is not the least bit bashful. He talks a great deal and we certainly didn't want him to be so talkative in front of the Pope.

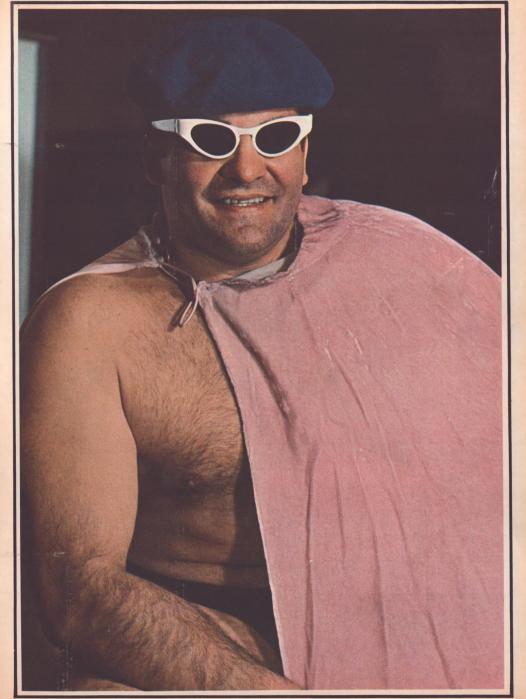
Then, the Pope finally arrived. He is a small man, but a very friendly one. Somehow, to see him, it sort of gives you the feeling that you have known him and been with him before. Suddenly, I didn't feel quite as nervous as I had been earlier. Realizing that this was the Pope gave me a phenomenal thrill. It is hard to describe.

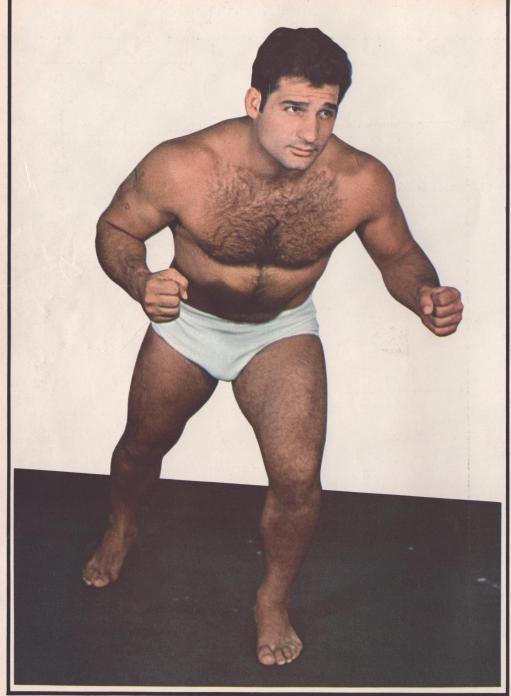
I know this, when it was all over and we walked out of that room, it was the greatest feeling I ever had in my life. It is the greatest thing to happen, or will ever happen, in my lifetime.

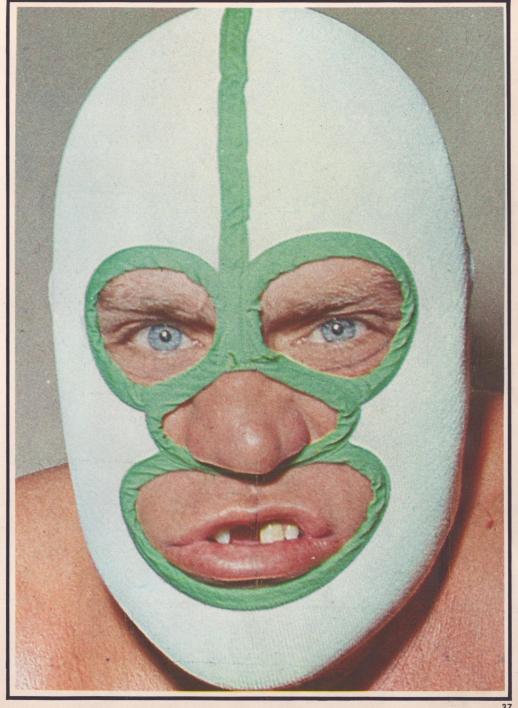
We returned to the hotel and decided to go sightseeing for a couple of hours. I had a car with a chauffeur who knew Rome inside and out and took us everywhere. When we got back to the hotel, the pictures were waiting for us.

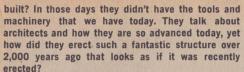
We decided to spend six days in Rome before going to Pizzo Ferrato, the little town where I was born and raised before I came to the United States. While in Rome, I had to see certain things that were important to me. I am a lover of ancient history and Rome is the place to observe it. I think we visited every place there is to see in this great city.

The Coliseum, for instance. This is really something to see. We went inside and took pictures of it. It was just fantastic to see this great building standing here. From a distance it looks like a great stadium or a ball park that is still being used until you get inside of it and see how old it really is. It's amazing to look at the inside of this great structure and realize what all went on in this stadium in ancient times. It is really phenomenal how it is still standing after a couple of thousand years. You look around this structure and realize that it over 2,000 years old, and yet it is still standing. How was it









Besides the Coliseum, we also visited the villa of Adriana, the Roman emperor. This was also something wonderful. It took 40 years to build and after it was completed, Adriana only got to live there for two years before he died. The emperor had 1,000 rooms for his servants alone. In his villa, there are 100 rooms, all made of marble.

We also visited other ancient landmarks like the grave of Augustus Caesar; Prince Nero's villa; Napoleon Bonaparte's birthplace. We traveled to Tivoli which is only about 15 miles outside of Rome. I have never seen so many gorgeous fountains in all my life as I witnessed there. They're so hard to describe. It is something that has to be seen. I don't know how many different fountains there were, but they were all different sizes and shapes and they date back over 2,000 years. It is truly a place of beauty. In all my travels I have never seen anything to rival it.

I also visited a building that was erected 200 years before the birth of Christ. It is still standing today and there hasn't been any repair work done to this building. It's amazing! There aren't any chips on the walls and nothing falling off the ceilings. On top of the building there is a hole in the ceiling. This is the way it was made. The hole is about 10 feet round and the rain that passed through it over thousands of years has made little holes on the concrete floor that go as deep as two feet. The most amazing part of the entire building is that there aren't any ruins around it. The building is solid. I couldn't say it looks new, but undamaged would best describe it.

I also happen to be an opera lover and I got a chance to visit a restaurant called El Fungo which is about 25 stories high. In Rome, this is very high because there aren't any tall buildings like we have in the U.S. The restaurant is so high it overlooks all of Rome. It's owned by one of the greatest opera stars of all time, Mario Delmonico. My chauffer called up the restaurant and inquired when Senor Delmonico would be there. He knew how much I loved opera and also knew that I met Delmonico before. Senor Delmonico was very courteous when he was contacted by phone. He said he would be at the restaurant that evening and invited my wife and I to dinner. We met him there and he was truly a gentleman. He remembered our first meeting in Philadelphia in 1963 and he was kind enough to do a few songs for us. His voice is just as great as it ever was. In fact, two days after our meeting, he left for Germany to do some operas. Meeting Delmonico was another highlight of my trip.

The next day my uncle called me from my hometown, Pizzo Ferrato. He insisted that he would pick me and my family up at the hotel at 10 the next morning. I tried to tell him no, that we would take the train, but he insisted that he would pick us up. My uncle and my cousin showed up at the hotel right on time. I was very anxious to get back to the town where I was born.

I had many relatives and friends among the small population of 800 people. The house where I was born still remains. Most of my father's large family of 21 brothers and three sisters, were born there. Today, there are about 15 of them still living with all their sons and daughters.



Sammartino got enthusiastic greeting when he returned.

We passed through Casino where some of the worst battles of World War II were fought. Right after the War, I had passed through the city and it was completely demolished. There wasn't even a tree standing. It was really leveled from the hard fighting that had taken place there.

However, today, it's a beautiful, modern city. We stopped long enough to have lunch. I kept noticing that my uncle kept making telephone calls to my hometown. I got a little suspicious that something was going on but I just didn't know what. Then I noticed his driving as we were going through the mountains in his little Fiat. He certainly wasn't breaking any speed limits. Every once in a while he would stop and make another phone call. I definitely knew by now that something was up.

When we got about 15 miles from the town, we could see it from a distance from the top of the mountain. As we were descending, I noticed how

(continued on page 63)

THE CASE OF THE AASKED AAEDICS

This mysterious duo strikes with a superior knowledge of human anatomy. Are they doctors in disguise? This confidential report sheds some light on their carefully guarded secret.

"I just don't get the connection," remarked a prominent physician while attending a wrestling match recently. "I can't see how these wrestlers in the white masks can consider themselves remotely connected with even the most primitive form of medical practice!"

The spectators at ringside shared the good doctor's feelings that night, as they watched the mysterious masked Medics demolish a pair of opponents.

"They're not doctors," a fan speculated; "it's just an excuse to hide their faces behind those masks!"

"If they want to wear white," another observed, "they should call themselves butchers—not medics!"

Few people, it seemed, knew anything at all about this mysteryshrouded tag team—why they wear masks and how they got their name. We decided, therefore, to secure an interview with these men in white.

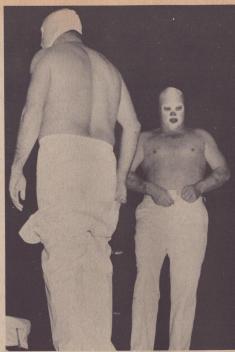
As one might expect, the Medics were as reluctant to be interviewed as they were to wrestle according to the rules of the sport. "Interviews," we were informed (through a wrestling commissioner whom we had asked to assist in securing an interview with the masked men), "are of



EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of the following account, although a frequent contributor to this magazine, has asked that his name be withheld from this work. His reasons will become apparent as you read what he has to say about one of the most feared tag teams in professional wrestling.



Victims soon discover the Medics are poison in the ring.



The men in white strip-and prepare to drive rivals crazy.

you try interviewing one of these in- been given, for monetary gains. dividuals: the wrestling profession is need all the help they can get!"

tion of being cooperative. The only be a highly unusual turn of events. For other approach, then, would have to two doctors who possessed a high deconsist of investigation and intimidation gree of skill as wrestlers to renounce ing with men like these!

Watching the Medics take advantage delivered short, open-handed jabs to ally reserved for licensed physicians. the body by the Medics. When the medicine!

ability is not sufficient to keep their Army medical corpsmen who had found as Dr. Bill Miller; however most stunames before the public. We suggest a way to corrupt the training they'd dents find they must choose between

For one licensed physician to forsake full of them: so-called athletes who his practice in favor of something contrary to his code of ethics-breaking, Obviously, these men had no inten- as opposed to mending, bones-would -dangerous tactics when you're deal- healing in favor of inflicting injury seemed incomprehensible!

If, however, the use of logic elimiof nerve endings and pressure points nated doctors from our list of suspects, gave us the notion that these men did, it also gave good cause to doubt that indeed, have a greater knowledge of these men had been no more than orthe human anatomy than the average derlies or corpsmen. Their obvious wrestler had. Men who could withstand command of medical knowledge made barrages of roundhouse rights from it appear that they were highly trained most opponents would be stunned when in the aspects of medical practice usu-

A doctor friend who had gotten his masked men resorted to the use of an degree from a large state university ether-soaked rag to subdue an excep- gave us a helpful clue. "Not very many tionally formidable pair of opponents, serious medical students had much time we were convinced: These men must for participation in sports," he obhave had some formal training in served. "Only a very small percentage of top college athletes go on to grad-The problem now was to figure out uate school," he added. "Most of them whether the Masked Medics were ac- are lured away by offers from busi-

value only to those wrestlers whose they were merely hospital orderlies or are notable exceptions, of course, such competitive sports and post-graduate studies. Very few can find the time to do justice to both."

Observing the masked Medics in action left little doubt as to their skill a wrestlers. It seemed logical to assume that they had been college athletes while taking courses in medicine. If this assumption were correct, then we knew a little of the background of these men-but still nothing about who they were or why they chose to hide their faces behind masks.

A bit of accidental eavesdropping at a supermarket gave us our first clue as to the residence of one of the Masked Medics. A lady, who apparently rented apartments, was talking to a friend.

"Such a tenant, Ethel!" she exclaimed. "You wouldn't believe it! He comes and goes, always a suitcase with him. And always with dark glasseseven at night—and a hat pulled down over his face. And the books he reads! I'm telling you, when I clean his apartment, sometimes I sneak a look. Medical books he has, with naked people in them, showing what's inside of you. tually doctors gone berserk, or whether nesses and professional sports. There And rassling magazines—and books like Frankenstein and The Island of Dr. stamped, addressed (no name, only a Our experiments were, primarily, con-Moreau!

"But he's quiet, he pays up on time provided. and he don't make no trouble," she was saving as we left the market to wait in the parking lot. Pretty soon, the lady made her appearance. We followed her to her residence, jotted down the address, then drove off.

The following day, the landlady, whose conversation we had accidentaly overheard, was contacted. A newsboy gave her a plain envelope, containing a questionnaire, and asked her to present it to "the large gentleman who works nights and carries his suitcase outstanding students, however our cuwith him."

In addition to the aforementioned questionnaire, the envelope also contained a brief message which read, "I know who you are (this much was a bluff) and where you live. I will not expose you if you will fill out the en- frogs, crayfish and other of the lower stumbling block. closed form and return it to me in the animals which were kept in the lab.

Four days later, paydirt! The post office box had a letter in it. Our quarry was indeed one of the Medics, and he had taken the bait! Each question was answered in some detail. The following are the questions asked and the answers received:

Q. Why did you leave school? This questions and the others which follow are, by the way, to apply to you and to your partner.

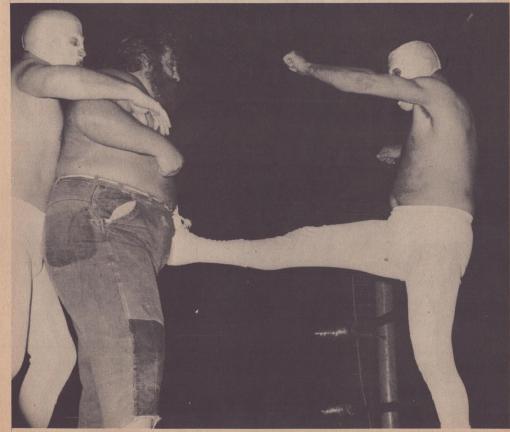
A. We were expelled. We had been riosity was such that we found it hard to be satisfied with the pace our professors prescribed. We took it upon ourselves to experiment without the knowledge and supervision of the fac-

post office box number), envelope cerned with the ability of living organisms to withstand pain.

We soon discovered that the comparatively simple nervous systems of the lower animals upon which we had been experimenting were not going to give us all the answers we wanted. Dogs and cats came next, and while they provided nervous systems sufficiently complex for clinical observations, they still could not communicate to us in words their experiences.

Logically, the next step was "human guinea pigs." This may sound rather bizarre; however there are enough "oddballs" at any large university that we had little trouble in getting volunteers. Persuading them to come back after one session was something else again, but we were able to get enough ulty. At first, we experimented only on subjects to see us through to another

We needed to make first-hand stud-



The Medics have a sure prescription for rivals. The above operation is sure to put Klondike Bill out of his misery for a while.

studies which would require surgical probing of a nature which might well cause permanent damage to a living person. We had to have a corpse upon which to carry out our further experiments!

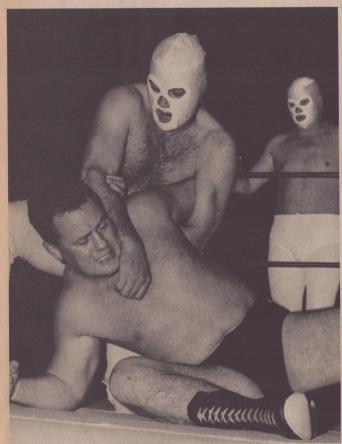
Cadavers may have been easily come by in Nineteenth Century London, but things have changed a lot since then. Furthermore, ours had to be fresh: something dug up from an abandoned graveyard wouldn't do.

ies of the human nervous system - administration did. As I said, we were preceded us. expelled.

Q. Your athletic ability leads one to believe that you were perhaps college wrestlers. Were you, and did your participation in sports conflict with your studies to the extent that you had to choose between the two?

A. My partner and I wrestled while undergraduates. However this had nothing to do with our leaving graduate school, as I have explained.

O. Why the masks?



A trained Medic knows his pressure points and London, struggling, knows he knows. ternship at the time. Our accelerated

We found a few hopped-up beatniks tigation of our activities by the school qualified, word of our activities had

A. When we were first expelled from and bribed them to get us what we medical school, my partner and I sought wanted. They got the goods all right, employment as laboratory technicians. but the police apprehended them in We were told that illicit experimentors the act. Naturally, they got scared and such as ourselves were not wanted. talked. It was their word against ours; Later, we tried to get jobs teaching, they couldn't prove that we'd hired but were informed that we might corthem, so no criminal prosecution fol- rupt the minds of our pupils. It seemed lowed. However an on-campus inves- that, in any field wherein we were

One day, my partner commented that it was a pity we couldn't wear masks when applying for work. I agreed, and then a thought struck me —we could! As professional wrestlers, we could wear masks. We could go unrecognized, at least until the furor over our activities in school had died down. We had been varsity wrestlers and we'd staved in good condition since. A few months of concentrated training, and we'd be ready to invade the professional mat world!

This was some time ago. However we are taking no chances. Besides, the masks are important to us now for other reasons—reasons of our own!

O. It is said that you and your partner occasionally conceal small, sharp metal objects in your trunks and in vour masks, and that vou use these on opponents when you get in trouble. Is this true?

A. Certainly not. Some wrestlers, not a few of whom wear masks, stoop to this tactic and to others which are equally underhanded; however it has never been necessary for my partner and me to lower ourselves to the point of using foreign objects as weapons in the ring. Granted, we employ our knowledge of the human anatomy to tremendous - advantage, and we do wrestle to win. We will injure our opponents if it is necessary to do solet our colleagues who went on to graduate worry about healing them! But the injuries we cause are brought about through hard, clever wrestling - not through the introduction of illegal foreign objects into the competition!

O. Have you ever been taken to task by the American Medical Association or any other such group as a result of the manner in which you reflect discredit upon the profession for which many believe you were trained?

A. The A.M.A. would find it difficult, as you did, to contact us. Besides, we don't really care what they think!

Q. How about the degree of medical skill which you possess. Just how far did you go toward a degree in medicine?

A. As I have already explained, we were in graduate school when we were expelled from the university. We were less than two years away from our ininterest in the science being what it was. I dare say we are as learned as some who went on to get degrees in

Q. Is there any possibility that you and your partner might one day forsake the ring and return to medical school?

A. Not a chance. There, you only strike out once. My partner and I have found what we want out of life: we

have no desire to give up wrestling for medicine or anything else. What we have learned, we apply when we can. We keep abreast of medical developments in order that we may further advance the considerable advantage we already enjoy in this area. However, we will not vacate the position we currently enjoy, that of wrestling's foremost tag team.

Q. Do you and your partner ever wrestle as individuals? It is said that you rely so heavily on your ability to switch out without tagging and to help one another out of tight spots that you'd be quite ineffective in singles competition.

A. My partner and I prefer tag team match for obvious reasons; primarily, because we are a tag team. We are not merely two uncoordinated individuals; we are a unit!

As for the ridiculous accusation that we switch out without tagging and commit other violations of the rules, I fear your source of information is somewhat unreliable. Many opponents envy us our precise teamwork; I don't doubt that they have concocted the tales you carry to us in the vain hope of justifying their own complete ineffectiveness!

Q. Whom do you consider the most formidable opponents you have faced, throughout the course of your career?

A. Injury and defeat. These are the only things we fear, and we have found no opponents capable of delivering

At the bottom of the neatly typewritten answer sheet was scrawled a message. "We have answered your questions," it read; "violate your pledge to conceal our identity and our whereabouts, and you will live to regret such hasty action.

"We hope this satisfies your morbid curiousity," the message continued, "for you will have cause to regret anything additional you might do to antagonize us!"

The Medics were quite frank, it seemed, in their discussion of their past, but rather evasive about matters which concerned their activities in the ring. This is understandable: misbehavior while in college would not likely get them in trouble with wrestling commissions now—but a written admission of certain transgressions in the ring very well could.

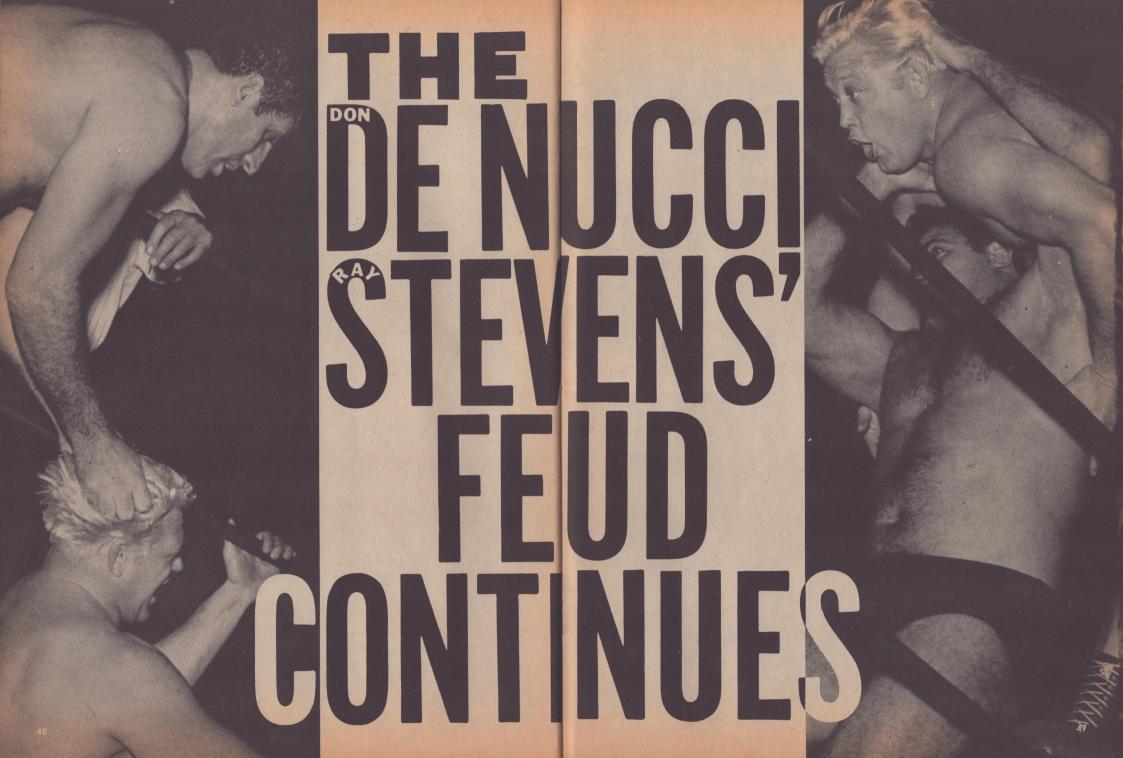
Wrestling's masked medicine men conceded us the forgoing information with obvious reluctance. Disclosure of the identity of even the one Medic we were able to contact would, of course, be impossible. We knew only where he lived, and by now he probably has moved. In any event, we're not going back to find out!

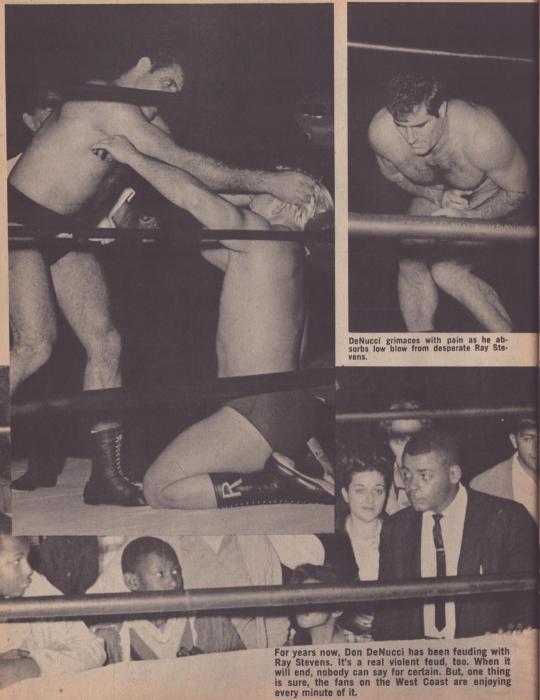


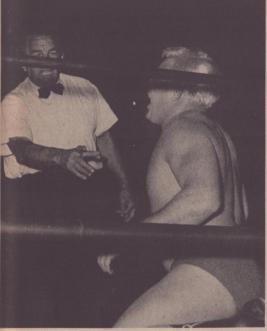
Wrathful fist of Klondike Bill is about to teach a Medic about crime and punishment.



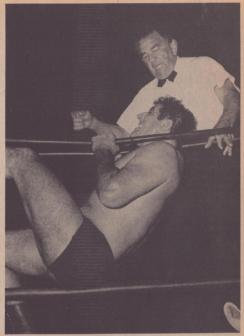
Medic cradles Klondike Bill's head and probes his throat-before applying a choke hold



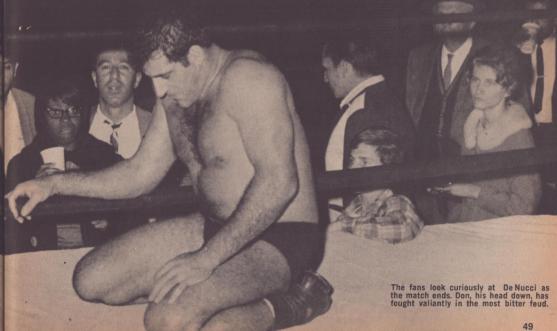




The referee warns Stevens about his foul tactics, but Ray just bellows back at him. Stevens wants victory — at any cost.



DeNucci's in agony, as the referee looms above him. Don hopes to use the ropes, though, to propel him back at Ray Stevens





EVERYBODY'S MAD

Stan Pulaski's become a wrestling nomad because he get suspended wherever he goes. Sometimes he hides behind a mask, sometimes not. But always there's controversy. He can't stay out of trouble.

By Dean Silverstone

Since wrestling's popularity has sky-rocketed in Japan, the Destroyer has probably made the biggest smash success of any American wrestler campaigning from Tokyo to Kobe. But the "reign" was ended recently, when The Mad Russian, Stan Pulaski, returned to the States, after a victorious, brutal tour of the Far Eastern wrestling capital.

The Polish-Russian wrestler left for Japan from the Pacific Northwest when he was told to "get outta Washington state for sixty days" by request of the local commission. Since he was forty-two days into a sentence which barred him from the entire Midwest for ninety days, Pulaski had no place to go, and it was on a telephone call from Kobe, Japan, that he decided to try his luck on the Japanese

He left without any contract to wrestle, and upon arriving in the Oriental mat haven, he was refused matches by the local promotion on the grounds that "there is no room for so-so's here."

Beside himself, Pulaski snuck into the bouts one evening in Tokyo equipped with a net and padlock. The champion of Japan was scheduled to meet Giant Baba in the main event for the night and Pulaski hid in Baba's dressing room waiting for his arrival. Finally Baba showed and Stan threw the net over him, wrestled him to the floor, and put the padlock on the net openings, so Baba couldn't move -let alone get out of the trap. He then threw Baba in the closet and closed the door.

Ten minutes before the main event was scheduled to go on, the promotion was discovering what ulcers were like. Then Pulaski walked into the office dressed in wrestling trunks and declared: "I'm taking Baba's place tonight. He's not feeling well and he phoned my hotel room and left a message for me to take his place tonight."

After much bickering and translating, the promotion agreed to let Pulaski's wrestle, mainly because the champion was already in the ring waiting for

When the match was over, Stan Pulaski was the champion. And for the next three months he was in Japan, he wrestled on every card at the promotion's request. Unbeaten, he vacated his title when he decided to leave Japan, mainly because there was no one who could beat him there and because his suspensions in Washington and the Midwest had

So, he left Japan and wrestled Pepper Martin in Seattle, Washington. After the match, he was handed not only his pay but a commission notice banning him for another sixty days for unsportsmanlike conduct. He flew to Omaha the following evening, and was booked to wrestle Harley Race two nights later, but one night prior to their scheduled match, he was banned from the Midwest for thirty days when he attacked Igor Vodik in St. Paul, for no reason at all.

Out of work again, he called Japan and asked if they could use him again, but he was informed that Giant Baba had formed a union which had as its only rule, "... if Stan Pulaski, alias the Mad Russian, is booked on any Japanese wrestling card, the following wrestlers will not work that card;" there was a list of eight names.

Pulaski then decided to go home (Tulsa, Oklahoma) and visit his family. He was enjoying the comforts of home for three days when he suddenly realized that his entire future as a wrestler was in jeopardy and he didn't know what to do. He went to the matches in Tulsa, as a spectator, and on the card he saw the Masked Terror wrestle. After the bouts he waited outside the arena for the Masked Terror to come out, and when he did. Pulaski discovered that the masked man was an old friend of his, and that he was wearing the mask because he was barred from two states.

That's when Stan got the idea to put on a mask and wrestle, and he did so. Today, there are two Stan Pulaski's-Stan Pulaski the wrestler, and Stan Pulaski the masked man. In other words, he wrestled with a mask in some spots, and other spots under his real name. If there's a strange masked man in your area, and if Pulaski has been barred from there recently, that's just who it might be. But as soon as Stan serves out all his suspensions, he will throw away the mask for good and start all over

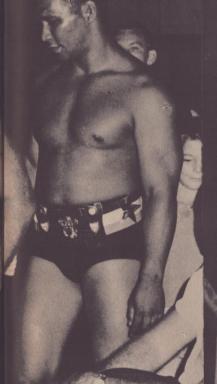
If he can just stop from being barred, he will go on to become one of the world's greatest wrestlers. But if you've ever seen this man in action, you'll soon discover why officials suspend him. Officials feel that it's better to promote ten wrestlers, than attend ten funerals.

AT THE MAD RUSSIAN



THE NIGHT RIPP ER LEONE WAS





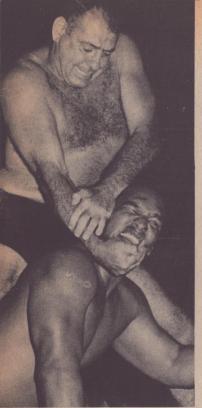
Ripper Leone and Bob Orton teamed against Eddie Graham and Sam Steamboat with an extra penalty involved: The loser of the deciding fall would leave town the next day. Justice was upheld in this well-remembered match as Leone had to pack his bags.



About this time a year ago Tampa, Florida was the scene of a truly outstanding tag team match. Eddie Graham and Sam Steamboat had taken the tag team belts away from Chris and John Tolos, and were being challenged to defend the belts by Bob Orton and his outspoken manager. Antone "Rip-

per" Leone.

"Sure we'll defend our belts against those two," said Sam Steamboat. "We'd be more than happy to get them into a ring for any reason." Sam had good cause to want this match: previously he had Orton as good as beaten when Leone interfered illegally—Leone had



Here's one way to bring forth chin music.

been acting strictly in the capacity of a manager and corner man in that bout. Orton was disqualified, but a disqualification meant that the regional belt, held by Orton, could not change hands.

"The sooner we can get our hands on those jerks the better we'll like it," echoed Graham, who had as much reason as Sam to hate Orton and Leone. "But let's get one thing straight. We've got a title to put on the line, so we're naming the terms for this match!

"We want it to be winner-take-all," Eddie continued, "with the losing team leaving the state of Florida." These were indeed the terms of a grudge battle. Tampa promoter "Cowboy" Luttrall presented the terms to the challengers.

"What's he mean, he wants the losing team to leave Florida?" demanded Leone. "Is he gettin' tired of this crummy place, or something? I thought he liked it here!

"Look here," Leone went on, continuing his tirade at the patient Mr. Luttrall. "You tell those bums that Bob Orton and myself are the number one tag team in this area and that we ing to weasel out of a match with us!"

A compromise was finally arrived. It ton was out to even the score. was agreed that the individual-not the team-who lost the deciding fall of the "Ripper" realized that he was up match, would pack his bags and head north. The "winner-take-all" clause was not challenged.

Bob Orton and Sam Steamboat answered the opening bell, and the early in trouble with continued hair-pulling,

demand a title match, and furthermore mendous power and wrestling ability that we will not go along with their of each. Steamboat is one of the few ridiculous conditions. They're just try- wrestlers to have beaten Orton since the "Big O" came to Florida, and Or-

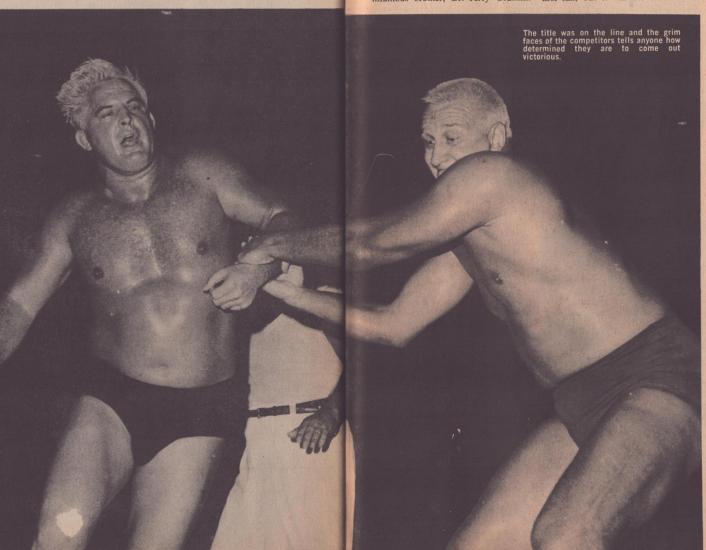
When Orton tagged out with Leone, against an opponent, much bigger than himself, who was a master of the scientific aspects of the sport. Leone threw the rule book away. He got Sam action showed very effectively the tre- eye-gouging and various other illegal

maneuvers. He made one mistake, though: He let Sam get back to his a few of the "refinements" of eyeown corner and tag out with Eddie gouging, hair-pulling and what have Graham.

sticking by the rules. He's a scientific wrestler by choice and he has proven so Eddie, not having any himself, tagmany times that scientific wrestling is the superior form of hand-to-hand combat in the squared circle. Still, he can hit Leone with a bone-shattering series be provoked. When he is, he makes use of flying drop kicks, then pinned him of all the tactics he learned from his with a body press. Leone had lost the infamous brother, Dr. Jerry Graham. first fall, but it was the loser of the

Antone "Ripper" Leone learned about you that evening. Eddie worked him Eddie's usually pretty faitful about over very thoroughly-and on his own terms. Leone was begging for mercy, ged out with Sam Steamboat.

Alas, Sam didn't have any either. He



A gentleman bent on another's destruction

deciding fall who would have to leave Florida.

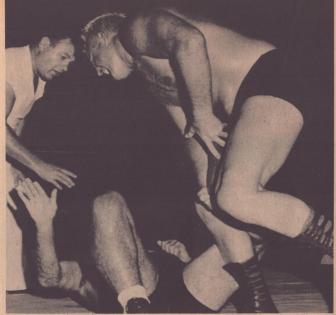
Sam Steamboat and "Ripper" Leone, having finished the first fall, started the second. It was a different Leone this time, however; he no longer had confidence in his "bag of tricks." The "Ripper" avoided Steamboat as best he could for a few minutes, then tagged out with Orton.

Orton was equally cautious against Steamboat. Orton was almost glad to see Steamboat tag out with Graham. Bob had a weight advantage on Eddie which he felt that he could use to considerable advantage under the circumstances.

Orton and Graham struggled furiously for the upper hand. Both men were sticking with the rules-for the time being, at least-since each was a master of the sport's traditional holds. Time passed and both men were obviously tiring. Orton, using his considerable weight advantage, slowly and gradually, moved Graham to the corner of the ring where Leone was waiting.

When the opportunity presented itself, Orton tagged out and Leone entered the ring against Graham. Eddie, having nearly expended himself against Orton, was no match for the refreshed Leone. The "Ripper" showed the fans how he got his name as he returned Graham's "favors" of the previous fall. Steamboat couldn't do anything since any motion he made which indicated that he might be about to enter the ring illegally only diverted the referee's attention and gave Leone additional opportunity to use his illegal maneuvers on Eddie. This did indeed appear to be Antone "Ripper" Leone's golden opportunity to even the score.

The sweet smell of victory has deluded great generals on the field of battle -and wrestlers in the squared circleinto giving way to overconfidence and making fatal mistakes. Napoleon's mistake was the Battle of Waterloo, and Antone "Ripper" Leone's glaring error was in assuming that Eddie Graham was beaten while he was still breathing. While Dr. Jerry Graham was teaching his vounger brother Eddie some favored methods of misusing a weakened opponent, the younger Graham did not fail to consider the possibility that some of those very same tactics would be applied to him one day in actual competition, just as his brother would apply them during Eddie's "training sessions."



It looks like a war-dance with the howling victor dancing 'round the vanquished.



Knead a knee? Pain can force man to rest one knee while trying to restore other to use. match. It's doubtful that he'll be missed.

He therefore formulated a defense against every dirty trick his brother taught him.

Eddie's farsightedness paid off for him the night he found himself being ripped apart by "Ripper" Leone. Eddie gritted his teeth and waited for the mistake he knew Leone would make sooner or later. When Leone made it, Eddie was right there. What happened was that Leone forgot to stay behind his man. He probably thought Eddie already had all the fight taken out of him. Anyway, he made the mistake of putting his left leg where Eddie could get hold of it. In a flash he was on his back and Eddie had him writhing in agony with the "spinning toe hold"-a variation on Frank Gotch's famous finishing maneuver.

Leone conceded for the second and deciding fall. Sam Steamboat stepped into the ring and helped Eddie to his feet. Ed still wasn't exactly sure what had happened when the referee raised his hand, along with Sam's, to signify that they'd kept their tag team belts.

"Ripper" Leone had a few bitter remarks to make prior to leaving Florida. He wouldn't say where he was going next, nor whether he and Bob Orton were through as a team for good.

A lonely figure was observed making a hurried exit the morning after the match. It's doubtful that he'll be missed.

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Robert Doten, Burkburnett, Texas
John Aguilar, Torrance, California
Julian Balopols, Los Angeles, California
John Praftz, Laves, Savannah, Georgia
John J. Sullivan, Fair Faix, Virginia
John Praftz, Sewell, New Jersey
Francis Nardella, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Mrs. K. W. Howard, Charlotte, North Carolina
Larry Phillips, Jax, Florida
Arthur Yalder, San Antonio, Texas
David Kaweikewics, Charlerol, Pennsylvania
A. J. Cocciolone, Phila; Pa.
Mike Lieberman, Levittown, Pa.
Junes California, Washing, Los California
Leon Wiley, San Antonio, Texas
Arnold Knable, Phila; Pa.
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Ron Kambowski, Florida, New York
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Michael Malone, Longview, Texas
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Lary Horn, Skokle, Illinois
Louis Jett, Purcellville, Virginia
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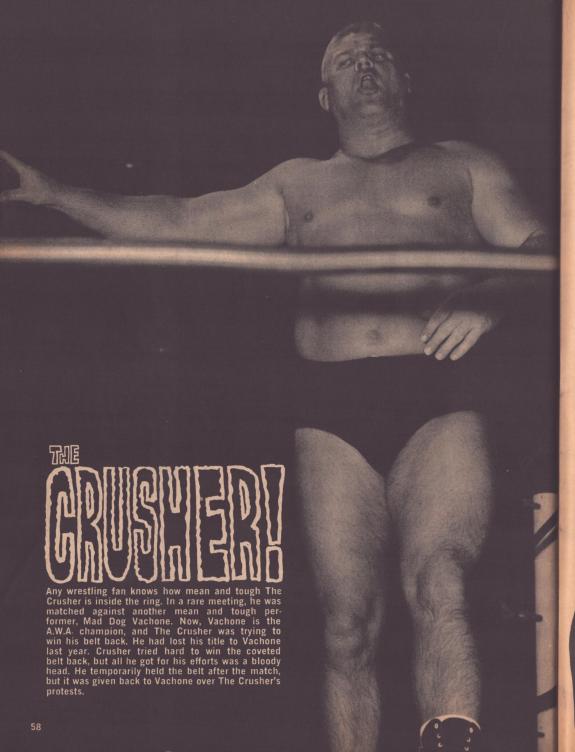
Veteran wrestling fans were shocked when they learned of this former wrestler's untimely death on the West Coast a few months ago. During his career, he was quite popular throughout the country, especially with the women fans. He was known as a wrestler's wrestler because of his wonderful scientific maneuvers.

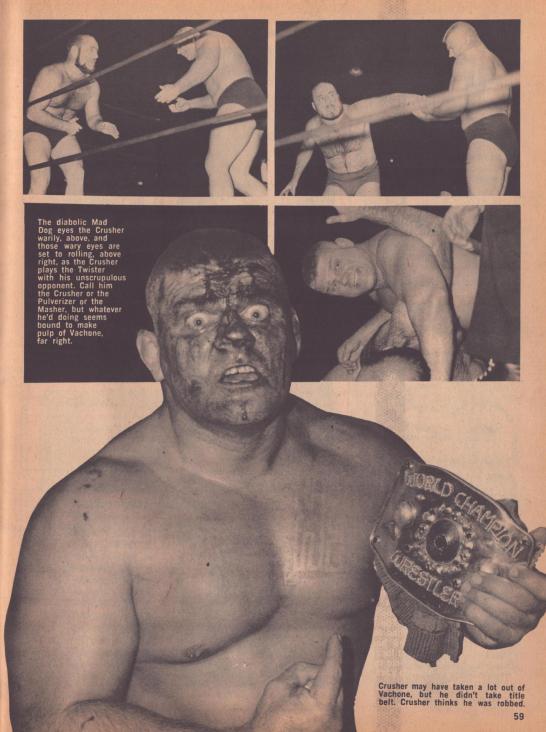
We know who he is. However, we are wondering if you do. If you do, it will be worth your while in the way of a one-year free subscription. In fact, WRESTLING WORLD is offering five FREE subscriptions for the first five correct answers. All you do is clip out the coupon below and mail it to us right away. It's as simple as that, no gimmicks or tricks, nothing to buy or send away for. The names of the five winners will appear in the next issue of WRESTLING WORLD.

Here's another tip that may help. He was very active in the 1930's and was temporarily blind at one stage of his career.

Now hurry and get your answers in to:

OLDTIMER QUIZ Wrestling World 30-30 Northern Blvd. Long Island City, N.Y. 11101
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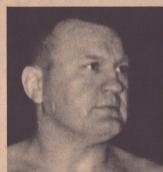
W.W. WRESTLING FEDERATION



Champ: Bruno Sammartino

- 1. Johnny Valentine
- 2. Bulldog Brower
- 3. Baron Scicluna
- 4. Curtis laukea
- 5. Tony Pugliese
- 6. Bobo Brazil
- 7. Bill Miller
- 8. Apollo
- 9. The Beast
- 10. Dan Miller
- 11. Tarzan Tyler
- 12. Chief Big Heart
- 13. Miguel Perez
- 14. Mr. Kleen
- 15. Arnold Skaaland

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE



Champ.: Gene Kiniski

- 1. Dick the Bruiser
- 2. Fritz Von Erich
- 3. The Destroyer
- 4. Lou Thesz
- 5. The Sheik
- 6. Eddie Graham
- 7. Pedro Morales
- 8. Bob Ellis
- 9. Johnny Powers
- 10. Bob Orton
- 11. Havstacks Calhoun
- 12. Art Thomas
- 13. Hiro Matsuda
- 14. Sam Steamboat
- 15. Moose Evans

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION



Champ.: Maurice Vashon

- 1. Verne Gagne
- 2. Killer Kowalski
- 3. Crusher Lisowski
- 4. Wilbur Snyder
- 5. Dick the Bruiser
- 6. Pat O'Connor
- 7. Chris Markoff
- 8. Igor Vodik
- 9. Tim Woods
- 10. Reg Parks
- 11. Haru Sasaki
- 12. Larry Hennig
- 13. Pampero Firpo
- 14. Harley Race
- 15. Tiny Mills

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Champ.: Gorilla Monsoon

WESTERN WRESTLING ALLIANCE

- 1. Pepper Gomez
- 2. Ray Stevens
- 3. Kenji Shibuya
- 4. Luke Graham
- 5. Bill Watts
- 6. Mitsu Arakawa
- 7. Toyonbari
- 8. Don Leo Jonathan
- 9. Shohei Baba
- 10. Buddy Austin
- 11. Bearcat Wright

15. George Drake

- 12. Hard-Boiled Haggerty
- 13. Don Manoukian
- 14. Nick Bockwinkle



Champs.: Hennig-Race

TAG TEAM

- 1. Bruiser-Crusher
- 2. Valentine-Parisi
- 3. Milfer Bros.
- 4. Masked Yankees
- 5. Stevens-Patterson
- 6. Bull & Fred Curry
- 7. Arakawa-Shibuya
- 8. Morales-Romero
- 9. Von Erich-Powers
- 10. Von Brauners
- 11. laukea-Beast
- 12. Brower-Scicluna 13. Steamboat-Steinborn
- 14. The Assassins
- 15. The Kentuckians



Champ.: The Fabulous Moolah

WOMEN

- 1. Rita Cortez
- 2. Judy Grable
- 3. Millie Zec
- 4. Penny Banner 5. Princess Little Cloud
- 6. Bette Boucher
- 7. June Byers
- 8. Georgia Brown
- 9. Brenda Scott
- 10. Cora Coombs
- 11. Ann Casev
- 12. Lucille Dupree
- 13. Keyoka Seito
- 14. Karen Kellogg 15. Marie Darnell

WRESTING MORLD BY LOU SAHADI

It's amazing how much boxing has begun to emulate wrestling during the past year. Fight promoters have scheduled a number of pre-fight publicity gimmicks designed to stimulate the sport's sagging gates. Even the boxers themselves have gotten out of character with outlandish statements and ridiculous publicity stunts. Cassius Clay admitted that he patterned his actions after the late Gorgeous George. Only trouble is. Clay isn't the credit to boxing as George was to wrestling. And, therein lies the saga of the continuing demise of boxing. The sport would have certainly helped itself if it had followed wrestling's lead years ago.

Dick The Bruiser has scratched Detroit on the list of cities he likes to visit. A Federal judge recently ordered the powerful Bruiser to pay a former Detroit policeman \$15,000 damages for injuries the officer suffered in trying to break up a fight three years ago. U. S. District Court Judge Fred Kaess awarded the damages to Andrew Meholic, 42. Meholic, who has since resigned from the force, was one of eight policemen summoned to a Detroit bar April 23, 1963 to quell a fight involving The Bruiser. Meholic charged he suffered a broken hand when he was grabbed by the wrestler.

Verne Gagne, considered one of the top wrestlers in the country, is high on heavy-weight boxer Ron Marsh. Verne may be slightly prejudiced in as much as he is managing the young heavyweight's career. "I can't deny that I give the kid an extra pat on the back, but if I didn't feel he has great ability, I wouldn't take him under my wing," explain Gagne. "After all, I have my own career to think of and I wouldn't waste time and money on just another fighter. Marsh is young and has quite a bit to learn. However, we won't make the mistake of rushing him too quickly. You'll hear a great deal more of him by next year."

The world of wrestling was saddened a few months ago with the untimely death of a pair of great oldtimers, Herbie Freeman and Sammy Stein. They died within two weeks of each other, Freeman on the East Coast and Stein on the West Coast. The past number of years Freeman has directed traffic in the Washington office of Capital Wres-

tling Corp., while Stein has been with a national distillery. Both had been active on the circuit the same time. One of Herbie's favorite stories concerned Sammy when they were both campaignning on the East Coast under promoter Jack Pfeffer. Each was at the peak of his respective career, but Sammy wasn't too happy.

"What's the matter Sammy?" asked Herbie one day.

"I don't think Pfeffer is paying me enough," remarked Sammy.

"Has he been paying you right after the matches?" inquired Freeman.

"Yes, cash on the line," said Stein.

"Does Pfeffer talk to you at all when he counts off your money?" queried Freeman.

"Yes, he pays me some fine compliments about how good I looked tonight and that I am really going to make some big money," answered Stein.

"Well," said Freeman, "the next time he pays you off don't say a word when he begins to pay you compliments. Just stand there with your hand open and don't say anything."

Stein took Freeman's advice. The very





Dick the Bruiser

Verne Gagne

next time Stein reported to Pfeffer in the dressing room for his night's pay, Stein held his hand out and Pfeffer began to count. Then, as was the case, Pfeffer began to laud Stein on his winning match.

"You looked great out there tonight," exclaimed Pfeffer.

Stein didn't say a word.

"You really thrilled the fans this time," remarked Pfeffer.

Again Stein remained silent.

"Sammy, you're headed for a championship bout and some really big money," said the promoter.

Stein still didn't speak a word.

By this time, Pfeffer had become wary and slowly continued to count. Once again he applied his technique and offered still more words of praise to Stein.

But Stein remained tightlipped. Finally, Pfeffer in dismay screamed.

"Sammy, you son of a gun, you've been talking to Herbie!"

It so happened that every time Pfeffer would pay Stein, he would quickly praise his night's performance while counting off the money. Stein, the nice guy that he was,



(continued from page 39)

narrow the road was. I'd hate to see two cars trying to pass each other. I don't think they could make it. It's funny, when I left Pizzo Ferrato, there wasn't a car in the whole town. Now, I was told that there are three cars, two are owned by my uncles and the other by a doctor.

As we approached a little town called Quadri, which was about 10 miles from my hometown, I started to see signs along the way. They read: "Viva Bruno Sammartino!" "Welcome Home Our Champion Bruno Sammartino!"

I knew right away that something had been planned. Just outside of my hometown some of the people began to line the road and there were more signs saying the same thing. I couldn't describe how it made me feel. I didn't expect anything like this. When we arrived in the center of the town, I think every one of the town's inhabitants was standing there. What was happening all the time with all those phone calls was that the people were quitting work early in the fields to assemble in the piazza. They had a little band playing and the people were all cheering and hollering. It was something that I shall never forget as long as I live . . . how all these poor people did everything to make my return a welcome journey.

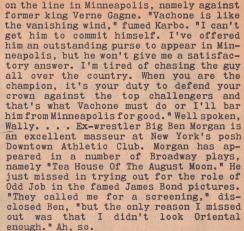
My wife was very thrilled by all of this. I made a little speech in Italian and told them how thrilled I was to be able to come back for a visit and to see all these familiar faces again that have grown old through the years. I told them how I yearned all these years to come back home again and how overwhelmed I was with their reception. I remarked that some day, when I no longer hold the title of world champion, I will come back again, not only for a few days like this trip, but perhaps for a few months.

I took my family to all the places I remembered around the town. One spot was Villa Rocca, which was in the mountains, and where we had hid from the Germans during the war. It brought back a lot of unpleasant memories. My wife was amazed to see how we survvied, just living on whatever scraps of food we could gather. We also visited the cemetery where a lot of my relatives are buried. Most of the time I spent visiting with all my relatives and many friends and somehow I felt as if I had never left.

However, when the day came for us to leave, I grew very sad again. It brought back memories of the time I left as a child to come to America. The people gathered in the piazza and waved goodbye to us. We returned to our hotel in Rome and prepared for the return flight to Pittsburgh. We spent 10 glorious days in Italy. I'll never forget them . . .

would always say "thank you" and when Pfeffer heard that, he'd stop counting!

Fearless Freddie Blassie, who had a damaged kidney removed the early part of the year, has recovered so well and is feeling so wonderful that he is seriously talking about coming back to the ring. Speaking on the phone from his Atlanta home. Blassie exclaimed: "I know a lot of those pencil necks counted me out after my operation. but you don't throw in the towel on Freddie Blassie that easy. I feel just great and as soon as the doctor gives me the okay, I'll be back better than ever. When I announce my comeback, WRESTLING WORLD will be the first to know". . . . Australian fans are wondering when World Wide Wrestling Federation champion Bruno Sammartino will return to the land of the kangaroo. Bruno



Joe Blanchard doing an excellent job in





Apollo

Bruno Sammartino

toured the continent for a month and thrilled audiences wherever he appeared. Sammartino liked Australia and wouldn't mind returning there for another tour. However, his commitments will keep him busy until the end of the year. . . .

Vittorio Apollo is quite happy with his new house on Long Island. He has a large home and quite a bit of land surrounding the place. . . . Former wrestler Frank Ross. who campaigned as the "Golden Scot," owns a flourishing discotheque in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. The lively spot is called Frank Ross' Cocktail Lounge and it's almost impossible to get into the place on the weekends. In fact, the younger set are card-carrying members of the neighborhood's discotheque club which insures them entrance on busy Friday nights. Ross has a large color portrait hanging over the bar in his wrestling togs which draws quite a bit of attention. Ross is assisted by former Scottish flyweight Pete Gorman and night man Tony Napolitano.

Minneapolis promoter Wally Karbo has been frustrated in his attempts to get American Wrestling Alliance champion Maurice Vachone to defend his title in Minny. Vachone swears he'll never put his title



Maurice Vashon



Bill Miller

his new role as a referee. The former grappler doesn't back down from anyone and is emphatic in his enforcement of the rules . . . Tell me, who is a better wrestling announcer in the country than Washington's Ray Morgan? . . . Every year about this time Big Bill Miller's thoughts wander to rabbit hunting. . . . Big Ernie Ladd really got the most out of his football mystery when he appeared on the circuit a few months back. He threatened to pursue wrestling and give up the grid sport if he couldn't play for whom he wanted. He played out his option with the San Diego Chargers and the rumors were flying that Ladd would jump to the NFL. Ernie kept 'em guessing until the time was right -- which was when he negotiated a contract with the Houston Oilers in the AFL whom he wanted to play with all the time. . . . St. Louis promoter has some big plans in store for Mound City wrestling buffs this season. He won't reveal his plans but remarked that if he can close the deals he has in mind, it would be the greatest thing to hit the sport in years. . . . Prince Iaukea lists New York high on his list of favorite cities. . . . Kinji Shibuya's name in his native Japanese means "Street District".

(continued from page 19)

esty's subjects. In Algeria, Vachon would be impossible to beat. Despite being mean, brutal and one of the biggest roughnecks in the game, Kiniski would be backed solidly by Canadians. who take great pride in their champions. Kiniski is strong, powerful and capable. When's he is hurt he is dangerous and, despite his roughhouse style, can baffle an opponent with an assortment of scientific holds. Kiniski's courage is unlimited and he ranks as one of the most rugged men in the

Sammartino, Vachon, Watts, Monsoon, Crusher, Thesz, Shibuya and Stevens, in my opinion, would be strong contenders and my most feared rivals.

Thesz, who may be in the twilight of a scintillating career, has experience and determination. He is probably the greatest defensive wrestler in the game and uses the ropes as an advantage. If Thesz can move an opponent into the ropes it means certain defeat. Thesz uses the ropes, one way or another, to defeat half of his opponents.

A superbly conditioned athlete. Thesz learned the tricks of the trade from Ed (Strangler) Lewis, one of the greatest wrestlers of all time. I believe I am faster, stronger and can take more punishment than Lou and that I can wear him down with an aggressive attack. Certainly his age won't help him; indeed it might be his biggest bugaboo in winning the Series.

While Thesz is a veteran campaigner, Sammartino has youth on his side. He's also one of the most powerful wrestlers in the game. His tremendous leg power amazes opponents. Weighing 275 pounds and 5-11, Bruno is one of the most agile wrestlers in action today. He's aggressive, ring smart and, like Thesz, seldom makes a mistake. His surge to the top in the last two years has been startling and unexpected. If he has a fault, it could be overconfidence. He's cocky and uses his husky frame to overpower his opponents.

Because I rate Sammartino so highly, he has become a symbol to me. Fact is, I dream of the night when we meet, but I have to admit they haven't been exactly sweet dreams. I have had many nightmares in which I see Sammartino standing over me and the referee raising his hand in victory. But nightmares don't count, and I still believe I can beat the voung and powerful Italian giant. If and when we meet, it will be a tense and dramatic moment for both of us. There is no doubt in my mind that only one of us would be able to walk out of the ring under our own power after the struggle.

For me to talk about nightmares

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Powerful Vern Gagne says of his proposed world tournament: "I'm confident I will win."

might sound ridiculous, but I find myself flying into a rage at the mention of his name. He probably has a special distaste for the name Gagne, too.

My dropkicks and sleeper hold could be the deciding weapons if and when we meet. But if Sammartino traps me in his backbreaker, it could end my career. I am positive he wouldn't release the hold until I was crushed or crippled. In short, it would be a battle for survival.

Singh, like Sammartino, has tremendous leg power. The champion from India isn't massive, but he is a dedicated trainer who does upwards of 2.000 deep knee bends daily. He trains differently than American wrestlers and is difficult to knock off his feet. He tery men of wrestling.

Crusher, because of his muscle power, has to be recognized as a threat. He is as mean as Kiniski, can be just as rough. And his stomach claw hold and bolo punches are punishing and dangerous. Crusher is ring smart and he is confident he can beat any wrestler. I feel his desire alone will carry him close to the finals. If he has a fault it violently disagree with him. If I were could be his lack of condition.

Baba, because of his height and weight, could be as explosive as dyna- the same night." I'm not, but if pressed, mite. Then again he could be a dud. A protege of Fred Atkins, a smart and The flamboyant Carpentier is one

proven to be a good student. On a given night, with breaks in his favor, a big man is always tough to outmaneuver and master. Baba would be no

Baba, reports indicate, can be a wild man in the ring. He shows an opponent little or no mercy and his steely eyes are frightening. One American wrestler who met the Japanese giant told me: "It wasn't his size, his strength or his wrestling ability that beat me. It was his eyes. They were like rapiers. They left me limp with fright. I couldn't move and I suddenly lost my strength. I was at his mercy."

However, ferocious looks and piercing eves don't scare me.

Gorgienko is skilled, deadly and is an escape artist and one of the mys- ruthless. He plots his strategy with the skill of a scientist. Besides he lives without fear and wrestles the same way.

> Gotch is a lithe and unemotional German. He has arms of steel and is a terrific competitor. I have heard rumors that some foreign wrestlers believe he is one wrestler who can beat me. Ivan Kalmikoff contends he could beat me. I respect Ivan's judgment, but a Kiniski or Crusher, I would answer: "I'll lick you, Gotch and Crusher on I think maybe I could.

capable leader and teacher, Baba has of wrestling's greatest aerial artists.

His flying leg scissor holds are sensational, effective and spectacular, but I don't fear him. Eduardo can be great one night and just another wrestler the next. He isn't consistent. If he ever gains the bulldog determination of Gotch he could be unbeatable.

Despite his high-flying ring wizardry and acrobatics, Carpentier can't match me in agility. He may be as quick as a cat on his feet, but my striking power is greater.

Vachon may rate as the dirtiest wrestler in the game. He isn't satisfied to win. He wants to cripple his opponents. His ruthless ring tactics should not be tolerated. If there is a man in wrestling who should be barred, it is Vachon. His cannibalistic ring actions certainly would make him the most hated wrestler in the tournament.

He is as deadly as cancer. Winning isn't an ambition with him. It is an obsession. He undoubtedly is the cruelest man in the ring today. And battling for half a million dollars would make him a terror.

Shibuya and Arakawa are dangerous because of their judo chops. They are cunning, sly and unpredictable. They are masters at crippling their foes.

While the Japanese hatchetmen would be threats, so would Ivan Kalmikoff and Nicholi and Boris Volkoff, the wild Russians.

Because of his amazing strength, Igor would have to be rated a strong darkhorse despite his lack of experience. Igor's bear hug is rated more devastating than the late Yukon Eric's. If Igor has a fault it is that he is too nice. And nice guys finish last in wrestling.

Watts needs no buildup. He'll be in the tournament. And he will be a real monster to beat. So will Stevens and the Monsoon. They have their strong points but so have Bill Miller. The Stomper, Pat O'Connor, Dick the Bruiser. Bob Geigel, Johnny Valentine, Killer Kowalski, Whipper Watson, Stan Nielson, Cowboy Bob Ellis, Bearcat Wright, Bobo Brazil, Pepper Gomez, Wilbur Snyder and a host of others too numerous to mention.

No one would be barred from the tournament because of his reputation. They'll all be welcome to pay their \$10,000 entry fee and enter the Series.

For me, a farm boy from Minnesota who walked six miles home after football and wrestling practice while in high school, the tournament would be conclusive proof of my ability. If I lose I'll lose graciously and without complaint. If I win, I want to be accepted as champion.

I'm confident I will win. And to those wrestlers who disagree I have just five words: "Put up or shut up."

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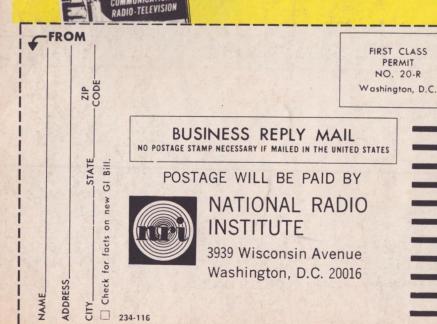


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